

Officer, Gentleman Erroll
Southerns keeps L.A. safe **PAGE 32**

Processed Politics Analyzing
our national food fight **PAGE 26**

Medical Malpractice Surely
there's a better way? **PAGE 16**

Brown Alumni Magazine
June-August 2025

Brown

Inside AI

Brown's first AI czar
Michael Littman takes on
artificial intelligence
just as everything's
up in the air.
He's ready. **PAGE 18**



Diversity of Perspectives

President Christina H. Paxson invites Matthew Guterl, Brown's new vice president for diversity and inclusion, to reflect on his role.

As I write this, gale force winds hit the windows of Horace Mann. The weathered wooden frame rattles constantly, reminding me of the age of the building. And reminding me, too, of the political headwinds we face. The storm lingered for a long while on the horizon. Now that it is here, we dash outside infrequently and return just as quickly. Everyone is drenched to the bone. We worry the dark skies might never leave.

To be the vice president for diversity and inclusion at this moment is an impossible contradiction. At its core, this office represents the driving need for grace, decency, and kindness in any living and learning community. It also reflects the perverse, tragic absence of the same. In a moment of heightened political tension and violence, we steward the University's commitment to a space free from discrimination and harassment. Along with our partners and colleagues on this campus, we labor long and hard to ensure that everyone feels welcome, that we offer generosity to everyone,

though this effort is doomed to be misunderstood, given the rarity of such things in contemporary American life. We endeavor, in a way, to be obsolete, but each day the human failings of our time reinforce the need for this office.

We are one of the reasons that the storm is here. Or, at least, that is what the prevailing wisdom suggests. Efforts to foster a diverse and inclusive campus—or “DEI,” a once celebrated acronym now rapidly vanishing from the national vocabulary—have been singled out for what has gone wrong with America. Some say its elimination by any means necessary is the only solution. My colleagues and I are resolute that a diversity of experiences and perspectives and ideas is central to fulfilling our academic mission to advance knowledge and understanding. We know there are links between innovation and inclusion, diversity and dynamic research.

A month and a half into the job as of the time I'm writing this column, it is hard for me to square the phantasmagorical misrepresentation of this office with my actual everyday experience. At least half of what I do—what we do together—is about solving problems, removing impediments, and ensuring that faculty, students, and staff are able to realize their most ambitious dreams in an atmosphere that is free of hostility and hate. Sometimes, the concerns are existential—worries about deportation, safety, and visa status proliferate these days—but just as often they are ordinary, the kind of quotidian melodramas everyone encounters navigating a college campus. How do I make this conversation happen? What does this word “diversity” mean? Who is the right partner for me in this new and innovative enterprise?

Most of these concerns aren't meant to be answered by me alone. Being new, though, means that you don't always know where your lane begins and ends. And, more specifically, it means that when you don't know something, you must walk a mile to figure it out,



because you are modeling determined compassion. That person sitting in front of you needs an answer. Here in Horace Mann, it is our responsibility to turn no one away.

Sometimes the search for an answer draws you out into the pouring rain. But once you have it, and once you share it, you get to watch relief, or gratitude, or enlightenment wash over the face of a colleague, a student, a staff person. Culture, we know, is a structure of feeling. That structure is built out of relationships, out of conversations, out of the simple provision of answers.

The work doesn't always end well, of course. Sometimes you get drenched, top to bottom, after merely offering basic help or kindness or sympathy. Sometimes, the tough conversation only gets tougher and tougher. And sometimes you must turn into those headwinds, steel yourself, and furiously defend everything that you and your colleagues represent. What else, I wonder, could be more important?

Matthew Guterl
Vice President, Diversity and Inclusion

A diversity of perspectives and ideas is central to fulfilling our academic mission to advance knowledge and understanding.

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Going be

“He’s probably the most knowledgeable person to have ever served on the Los Angeles police commission.”

—Karen Bass, Mayor of Los Angeles

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Michael Littman ’96 PhD sees the fun in whatever he’s doing, from swing dancing to directing AI policy at the National Science Foundation. He’s Brown’s new AI czar. BY CHRISTINE BAEK ’25

“Baseball isn’t life or death, but dealing with adversity—that could be.”

—James Lowe ’05

43 How to coach

As a child, she lived in a test market for the latest in processed food. Now, Charlotte Biltekoff ’00 AM, ’06 PhD examines the gulf between the food science industry and “real food” advocates. BY ERIK NESS

26 Should dinner look

“New forms, new shapes, new flavors. I couldn’t help but wonder, what was the machine behind this?”

—Charlotte Biltekoff ’00 AM, ’06 PhD

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doc

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hind the blue line

From beat cop to L.A. police commissioner,
Erroll Southers '78 has become one of the nation's foremost
homeland security experts. BY LORRAINE ALI

Avengers



**“Research, teaching,
operations, policy,
communications...all these
things are happening.”**

—Michael Littman '96 PhD

a real home run

James Lowe '05, aka Coach Ballgame, *is on a*
mission: to inject some joy (and, oh yes, some character-
building) back into youth sports. BY KEVIN STACEY



like a dinosaur?

When things go wrong, *patients want answers and accountability—but*
malpractice lawsuits create a culture of silence that makes it hard to get either. A Brown
doctor and med students explore other options. BY MICHAEL BLANDING

tors make mistakes

**“It’s the sword of Damocles facing
every physician.”**

—Viknesh Kasthuri '21, '25 MD

Beach Daffodils

My grandfather had a dairy farm in rural Virginia, perched on a 30-foot sandy bank overlooking the wide Rappahannock River just as it nears the Chesapeake Bay. Some 50 years ago, he and my grandmother put up a "Rondette," a two-bedroom prefabricated house, set back 50 feet from the bank.

From the Rondette, the view of the river and the two-mile-long bridge that crosses it was spectacular. The physics of the round design meant the house could withstand high winds—seemed like a safe choice for a coastal home. A few feet from the edge of the bank, my grandmother, who for reasons including illness never did much of anything physically demanding, planted some daffodils.

In the 50 years since, rising sea levels and the majestic storms that I loved to watch sweep across the river have ravaged the bank, pulling down trees and gobbling foot after foot of land until the Rondette had to be razed and carted away lest it litter the Rappahannock. I can gauge where it once was from looking at the 30-foot mimosa tree that I'd planted right behind the house when it was a spindly two-foot stick and I was a fifth-grader.

In times of upheaval, it can feel like nothing you did in the past or can do now could possibly matter.

This spring, taking a break from the grief and exhaustion of clearing out my mother's house after her death, I went for a walk on the beach. And there, just behind a piece of driftwood, were my grandmother's daffodils, blooming brightly as they do every year. Beach daffodils.

The bank that they were planted on crumbled. The house whose view they were meant to brighten was pulled down at least 25 years ago. A small dairy farm was no longer financially feasible in our factory-farm era, so there haven't been any cows around since 1991.

The daffodils had seen the utter destruction and dissolution of everything that was an organizing principle around their evanescent bloom each year. And yet they burst forth again this spring, sweetly scenting the salt air, raising my spirits and those of everyone who passed by, wondering how daffodils came to be planted in the sand.

Planting those bulbs was a rare time my grandmother did manual labor. But that one small, long-ago act of hope, those few minutes of work to create a brighter world, makes a difference to this day and has touched many lives, despite so much else being lost.

In times of upheaval, it can feel like nothing you did in the past or can do now could possibly matter. The daffodils tell a different story—as do the lives and works of so many of the alumni and professors we report on in these pages.

Keep planting. Keep blooming. And like the subject of our cover story, Brown's new associate provost for AI Professor Michael Littman—who, full disclosure, also moonlights as our crossword-puzzle proofreader, because of course he does—keep doing things that bring you joy.



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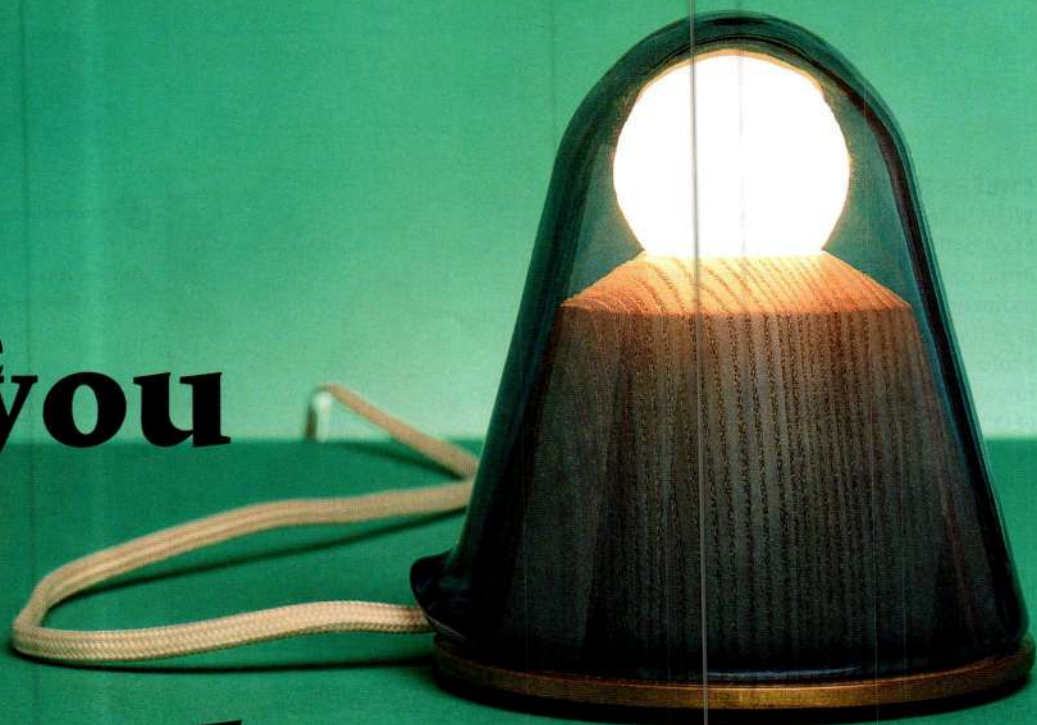
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or
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The BAM Gift Guide features the best work of Brown alumni and students every year.

Send a description, photo, or link to kerry_lachmann@brown.edu to be considered for the 2025 guide.

NEW DEADLINE: AUGUST 15



Lamp by Elliott Rosenberg '24, Brown/RISD dual-degree graduate in furniture design, computer science, and engineering. Find his work at perennial.design.
Photograph by Joel Benjamin

What Do You Think?

At press time, Eva Erickson '28 PhD was still in the running as a contestant on *Survivor* 48.

CHEERS & JEERS

WOW! I love this "special issue" (Apr.-May '25)! It tackles so many front-of-mind challenges ... in this hypercharged moment, I am eager to read how Brown is grappling with the push toward pre-professionalism (and, presumably, the impacts of AI), the unmentionableness of gender, etc. We GenXers are grateful to our GenZ siblings for pushing BAM into this highly relevant territory!

*Penelope Elliott Hays '92
New York City*

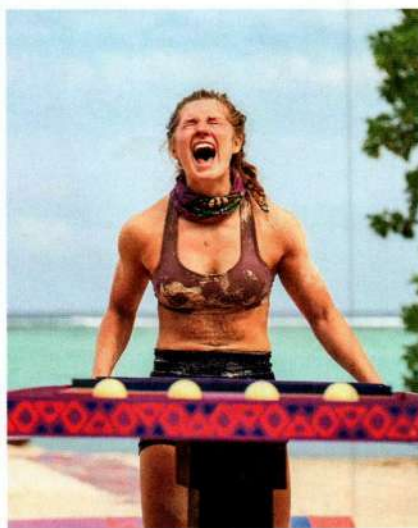
Just seeing this issue at a time when our universities are under assault from the federal executive branch is strangely out of touch with reality. My husband, who reads BAM more than I do, asked why this issue is something Brown would publish. And I said to myself, are you kidding me? Write articles with substance. These are important times to be advocating for the preservation of our educational system. Write about the Zoom meeting we just participated in with regard to the writing of Brown's [values and voice] statement—that is a story. These are unprecedented times.

*Mary Mintz '80
Rockport, Mass.*

The "editorial" [by the student editors] in Apr.-May '25 issue is a whiny, self-indulging diatribe that gives us little

"Seeing this issue at a time when our universities are under assault from the federal executive branch is strangely out of touch with reality."

—Mary Mintz '80



context and less meaning. To suggest that "our country is nose-diving into chaos at alarming speed" is simply wrong, and I suspect it reflects the views of liberal fear-mongers who take every opportunity to directly or indirectly slander the president and his policies. Moreover, it evinces a lack of historical context or even justification for such a statement after less than three months into this presidency. When I am confronted by "editorials" like this, I am constrained to implore my friends and family to "please give him some time!"

*Sidney Baumgarten '54
North Brunswick, N.J.*

What a super edition! (Jan.-Mar. '25) I have longed for a bicycle to pedal for powering TV, so reading about the campus cardio machines that generate electricity was thrilling. Nalini Nadkarni's treetop research and Tony Coke's art are inspiring. I am impressed by what is done at my alma mater. Thanks.

*Nancy Grove '64
St. Marys, Ga.*

BIG INFLUENCE

I do not like the term *influencer* but I do like the activity ("Influence," Apr.-May '25). One of my sons has produced blogs for many years and I enjoy helping him make some of them and watching others. Training oneself to produce blogs is, at worst, an enjoyable hobby and, at best, an enjoyable way to earn an income. Best of all, it does give a person the opportunity to make a difference in the world.

*David Parent '61
Wallingford, Conn.
townca2005@gmail.com*

Lauren [Eusebio '25] has been one of my biggest inspirations since I started editing ("Influence," Apr.-May '25). I remember recreating her edits when I was just starting out—she made me fall in love with the craft. Reading this gave me chills because it resonates so deeply with my own path. I left medicine in October to pursue motion design full-time, and although I'm still far from where I want to be and have no financial support (since no one agreed



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with me leaving med), I've been building from zero. Now I'm getting commissions, running a nonprofit studio to teach new editors, gaining leadership experience—all while working toward my dream of studying at Brown. Seeing someone like Lauren, who also left pre-med at Brown and built a creative career with structure, community, and impact, gives me so much hope. She's proof that carving your own path is worth it, no matter what anyone else says. Truly inspiring.

Chris Chauhan
Ottawa, Canada

TRANS IDEOLOGY

Your article is excellent as far as it goes but it inadequately treats both sides of the issues that inflame the trans debate ("The Gender Q," Apr.-May '25). Those issues should be broken down. Most of the current public debate comes down to three objections to trans ideology, expressed as follows:

1. Children should not undergo "gender-affirming" surgeries or other medical procedures, regardless of their stated wishes. Society restricts the free choice of children in many areas, because we

advantages in muscle mass, strength, and endurance make the race unfair and deprive women of their spotlight.

If you put these objections in context of the broader debate and the rights demanded by the trans community, they are relatively minor. I believe that if that community accepted them, the great majority of the public would accept [trans] rights in other areas.

Rauer Meyer '69
Tiburon, Calif.

CAREERISM & COLLEGE

I suggest that Brown and other Ivy League schools turn inward to their own admissions process ("Is Careerism Ruining College?" Apr.-May '25). Is Brown attracting students highly focused on careerism? Is the process self-fulfilling? I would think the admissions office could significantly alter the composition of the student body if it so chooses. Students (and their families) are "taught" at an early age to focus on grades, to participate in extracurricular

Han Nguyen '21 was also gluing us to our screens as a threat on *Amazing Race* 37

often ask them to step back, somewhat to their surprise, to assess what it is they want to do, what brings them joy, to consider an unconventional path. My advice to them: Life is full of surprises; let it unfold in all its sparkling glory.

David Ricci '80
Chicago

Your article claims that the liberal arts teach critical thinking. But just reading books and writing papers doesn't mean someone magically becomes a deep critical thinker. The missing step is developing real world skills: learning how to tackle problems, to work with others on projects, and to take one's writing and communication to a deeper level. As a lit major, I should have been required to take a few nonfiction writing classes, classes with effective teachers at the very least. I should have had a few classes that required solving problems. That's what a well-lived life requires.

Thomas "Tim" Truby '73
San Pedro, Calif.

TREETOP LOVERS

What an inspiring life Nalini leads! ("Tree-Top Trail-Blazer," Jan.-Mar. '25). What a beautiful piece of writing and photo-journalism, too. Thank you Erik and BAM team for always finding such treats to share with us. I needed this breath of fresh air to remind me how creative and surprising life can be. I love the connection with forest disturbance and Nalini's fall; what a profound way to experience life. I am glad she is healing and was able to climb again.

Jessica Kenny '17
Houston, Tex.

RISK & REWARD

In reference to "Capitalism to the Rescue?," Courses of Study, Jan.-Mar. '25. I hope the class also considers the role of risk. Our customers are putting in systems to evaluate risk related to different climate and regulatory scenarios (e.g., for mortgages or other long-term investments). The practice is most obvious in insurance, but we see it also in government and asset management. Regardless of your politics or opinions about science, nobody wants to lose money.

David S. Rich '82
Sudbury, Mass.



teamasianswag and 5 others
The Amazing Race

teamasianswag !! INTRODUCING:
Team. Asian. Swag. THE brother sister duo on season 37 of The Amazing Race.

Our parents are first generation Vietnamese immigrants that instill in us the value of hard work, grit, and never taking "no" as an answer. We grew up in the Bay Area (408 represent!), and never fit into one bucket. We were never the best at piano (our mom can attest), were pretty mediocre at math, and could never shut up even if our lives depended on it. We are athletes that love adventure, to crack a joke, and have hearts of gold. As the world gets to embark on our journey today, we reflect on our mission of why we did the race in the first place. Our hope is to show the world that Asians aren't one dimensional. We don't fit into one bucket. In addition to being lawyers and doctors, we are also artists, athletes, and cool. ass. people. Asians are swag.

❤️ Q ▼

deem that they don't have the judgment or experience to make wise decisions expressed from them as mature adults.

2. Women's private spaces should be protected from biological males, including bathrooms, locker rooms, and prisons. The dignity of women compels this.

3. Biological males should not compete against women in sports, as their

ular activities that look good on their applications, to study hard to attain outstanding test scores. They barely have time in high school, never mind in college, to develop a meaningful philosophy of life. Many students reach out to me as a BrownConnect+ alum and ask me what the best path out of Brown would be to secure the very best jobs? I



Under the Elms

Higher Ed Under Fire How Brown is responding

President Christina H. Paxson characterizes the federal government's demands and funding threats aimed at higher ed as raising "new and previously unthinkable questions about the future of academic freedom and self-governance."

Approximately three dozen of Brown's grants and contracts had been terminated by late April, a number increasing every week, she said, and expenses for some non-terminated grants have also not been reimbursed, at millions of dollars per week.

National media have reported that the federal administration plans to freeze \$510 million of Brown's federal research funding. At press time in early May, Brown still had not received official notice of these cuts nor been served with demands like those Columbia and Harvard received, Paxson said.

Brown has been active in partnering with other institutions and educational associations to advocate in court against cuts to research funding. The University is one of only 12 named plaintiffs actively suing the government over cuts to U.S. Department of Energy grant funding, and is also a named plaintiff in suits challenging National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health funding cuts. Paxson is one of hundreds of signers of a letter from university presidents opposing "government intrusion."



Campus community responses in April included a student rally on the College Green in support of Do Not Comply, a new student organization fighting “a future where fascism controls our university and our country,” and an open letter signed by thousands vowing to stand by Brown as it defends its values “in the face of intimidation and attack.”

Paxson wrote to alumni and friends of Brown April 30 with a promise and a request. “Brown will always defend the ability for students and scholars to teach and learn without fear of government intrusion or censorship, which is fundamental to efforts to protect academic freedom,” she promised. The ask? “Help us build collective advocacy to protect Brown’s ability to fulfill its mission as a leading research institution.” Paxson noted a new “Brunonian Advocacy” web page and a new “Research Resilience Fund.”

The stakes are high. “The research funding cuts that Brown has already suffered are causing immediate harm,” Paxson wrote, and threatened cuts would be “devastating to Brown’s research community.”

One researcher affected is Philip Chan, a physician and associate professor of medicine and behavioral and social sciences, who lost three NIH grants totaling more than \$3 million for his research on LGBTQ+ mental health and HIV testing and prevention medication. “The administration is essentially trying to erase a population,” Chan told the *Brown Daily Herald*. “That’s obviously very, very, very concerning.”

Brown relies significantly on federal funding—more than \$254 million in the past year, an estimated 70 percent of which is for medical and health research. “Threats to this work have real-world consequences,” Paxson noted, disrupting clinical trials serving patients with cancer, heart disease, and other serious conditions.

Paxson also said that Brown is “deeply committed to following the law” and to “maintaining a campus that is free of all forms of harassment and discrimination.” She said she was proud of initiatives combating antisemitism, and noted that many were launched “before this became a major area of focus for the federal government.”

At least one international student and several recent grads have had visas revoked, according to BDH reporting. In March, physician Rasha Alawieh, a kidney transplant specialist and professor in the Warren Alpert Medical School, was sent back to Lebanon. On April 25, the Trump administration announced it would restore the legal status of international students currently in the U.S., but described it as only a temporary reprieve.—DANA RICHIE ’25



Going Deeper

Beloved chaplain Janet Cooper Nelson retires after 35 years

Janet Cooper Nelson, the first woman to serve as a university chaplain in the Ivy League, has provided pastoral care to Brown faculty, staff, and students since 1990. Her poetic prayers are a cornerstone of University celebrations and the interfaith suppers she has hosted at her home have sparked invigorating conversations about spirituality.

Amir Tamaddon ’25, a Jewish and Muslim student from Iran, has been struck by her ability to navigate tension, especially in the wake of recent conflict in the Middle East. “By the end of a conversation with her, people are able to acknowledge something deeper about who they disagree with, softening what were previously rigid perspectives.”

Cooper Nelson has a keen interest in religious identity, religious literacy, and interreligious cooperation. In 1998, after surveying more than 1,500 students, faculty, and staff about their religious needs and perceptions of campus, the Harvard Divinity School grad restructured the chaplain’s office to serve a diversity of religious needs. Her insights have informed programs across the nation, and in 2024 she earned the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Association for Chaplaincy and Spiritual Life in Higher Education.

Cooper Nelson retired in May but will continue teaching at the Warren Alpert Medical School. She says she is enthusiastic about the University’s next chapter, despite the latest challenges. “Brown just has to keep being itself,” she says. “I expect to be cheering for all of it.”—MAGGIE SPEAR

For more on Dr. Chan’s work, see “Can We Kill HIV?” (May/June 2018)

NICK DENTAMARO (COOPER-NELSON)

2025 HONORARY DEGREES

AT BROWN’S 257TH COMMENCEMENT, THE UNIVERSITY AWARDED HONORARY DOCTORATES TO THE FOLLOWING:



TIMOTHY SNYDER ’91, A SCHOLAR OF THE HISTORY OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE WHO HAS WRITTEN 16 BOOKS, INCLUDING 2024’S *ON FREEDOM*

15%

PROPOSED NEW CAP ON REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR INDIRECT RESEARCH COSTS FROM THE NSF, NIH, AND DOE. CURRENT REIMBURSEMENT RATES VARY BUT CAN BE AS HIGH AS 50 PERCENT. JUDGES HAVE ORDERED PAUSES ON SOME NEW CAPS; THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION IS APPEALING.



Lily Ellman '27, left, and Ma'ayan Stutman-Shaw '27 learning new steps at the Mishnock Barn.

Study Break

Brown undergrads seek southern comfort in line-dancing.

Right heel, left tew (toe)," a man called out with a semi-southern twang while my roommate and I tried to learn a "couple's dance" on the floor. My other friends trailed behind us, grabbing each other's hands in preparation.

In a sea of dancers in Northeastern cowboy gear, it was easy to spot the nonconformist Brown crew as newcomers to the Mishnock Barn in West Greenwich, R.I. My friend sported a retro, homemade grey crocheted tube top next to a man in a shirt that said "Me and my country ass goin' fishin."

For a growing number of Brown undergrads, line dancing at the Mishnock Barn has been a much-needed respite from all that is paper and exam. The most popular days for students are Mondays and Tuesdays because the Barn does beginner lessons.

Julia Nguyen '27, a biochemistry and Egyptology concentrator, has become a regular. She began by going to the Barn as part of a team bonding activity for her intramural volleyball group. Nguyen was hooked. "Line dancing is really fun," she says, and "it's also so community based."—LILY ELLMAN '27



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OLYMPIAN **ALLYSON FELIX**, MOST DECORATED **AMERICAN TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE** IN HISTORY, DELIVERED THE BACCALAUREATE ADDRESS



Under the Elms

Playoffs, at Last!

Ivy League football teams will finally have a shot at post-season competition.

Next fall, for the first time ever, the Ivy League will be able to compete in Division I playoffs in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS), the second-highest level of college football.

"This was something that, as a player, I wanted since the early 1990s," says Head Coach James Perry '00.

"It was a little ridiculous that [Ivy League football teams] weren't allowed to

be in the playoffs in the first place," says former Bears wide receiver Mark Mahoney '24. Phil Lynch '20, who played offensive line, right tackle, admitted that he didn't think the move would ever happen: "Harvard and Yale have such a big say with what goes on in the Ivy League, and they try to keep that Harvard-Yale game as the big event every year."

The decision comes after a long, student-driven process headed by the Ivy League Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (ISAAC), and a vote by the Ivy League presidents. "Not a lot of people know what went behind this," says Wes Rockett '24. "Representatives from other sports at Brown were on these committees fighting for us. At the end of the day that builds a community, the Brown sports community."

The initiative was led by

Leah Carey '25, the Division I SAAC representative, representing the Ivy League to the NCAA. After initially bringing up the idea in the summer of 2023, Carey partnered with Yale student Mason Shipp to write the proposal and organized a group of Ivy League football players to gauge interest. While people were mostly excited about the prospective move, she says, some Ivy League administrators had concerns about postseason games overlapping with final exams. Carey says her mission, and that of her student collaborators, was to emphasize that Brown student-athletes "came here for an amazing academic experience, but also to play at the highest level of athletics."

Carey believes it was helpful that the proposal went through two legisla-

tive cycles—it was tabled in Spring 2024, but taken up again and passed in December 2024. "We had amazing support from commissioner Robin Harris and Alec Dominguez."

Perry says he "thought it was awesome that it was led by the students." A former player and head coach since 2018, Perry notes that the Ivy League season ending after the regular ten games "was always kind of a frustration."

In the words of Assistant Head Coach Willie Edwards, the decision was "a long time coming." When the news broke of the decision, "It took all of two minutes for it to spread around the locker room," says Perry, who had "anticipated that they'd be excited, but [was] surprised at how excited they were."

Perry says they've already



KEVIN YOUNG, POETRY EDITOR AT THE NEW YORKER AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE**



JOURNALIST AND ADVOCATE SULEIKA JAOUAD, WHOSE WORK HAS BEEN TRANSLATED INTO 20 LANGUAGES, INCLUDING 2021'S **BETWEEN TWO KINGDOMS**



BROWN ARTIST IN RESIDENCE WILLIAM KENTRIDGE'S DRAWING, WRITING, MUSIC, AND FILM WORK ARE **GLOBALLY RENOWNED** AND CELEBRATED.



BROWN COMMUNITY MEMBERS & ALUMS WHOSE BOOKS WERE REMOVED FROM THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY LIBRARY INCLUDE: AJUAN MANCE '88, DAVID LEVITHAN '94, FACULTY MEMBERS NICOLE GONZALEZ VAN CLEVE (SOCIOLOGY), LEWIS SEIFERT (FRENCH), TAMAR KATZ (ENGLISH), RUGBY COACH ROSALIND CHOU, & GENDER STUDIES PROFESSOR EMERITA ANNE FAUSTO-STERLING '70 PHD.

seen the decision have an impact on recruitment. "It is something that is important to these recruits." But defensive back Noble Cooper '25 doesn't see it having much effect on the team's play: "The goal has always been to win games and nothing will change about that," says Cooper. Former Bears offensive lineman Jack Connolly '25 emphasized this point, saying that "The way Coach Perry has built our team, it's one game at a time, and I think they're going to go into every game hungry for that win."

Recent graduates were deeply excited for their younger teammates. "Having the chance to compete for a national title is obviously a huge honor but also a privilege," says Rockett. Connolly expressed a similar sentiment: "The League itself is such an awesome accomplishment, but to be able to go out and compete against some of the best in the FCS, I think that's an awesome opportunity."

As excited as they are for the incoming classes, some alumni are disappointed to have missed the opportunity to play for a national title. "It definitely stings," said Isaiah Reed '25, defensive back. "I would've loved the opportunity to play against the big FCS top dogs." Connolly agreed, adding "but I'm happy that the younger guys I have played with are gonna get the opportunity to do that, and some of these awesome recruits are gonna have the opportunity to showcase their skills at a high level."

—REBECCA GOODMAN '27

The Banality of Kindness

Professor Emeritus Tony Molho on escaping the Nazis

In the summer of 1944, a young Tony Molho was riding with his mother on a train in Thessaloniki, Greece. Suddenly, two officers in plain clothes boarded and began to ask for everyone's papers. Molho's mother, who had recently returned from her escape of Nazi persecution, acted quickly, passing Molho's little hand to that of a man standing beside them. The train stopped, and she jumped off.

Such are the stories detailed in Molho's memoir, *Courage and Compassion: A Jewish Boyhood in German-Occupied Greece*,

coordinators had to open up a wall. It was impossible to reach the author over the sea of old friends.

In the first six months of the Holocaust, 90 to 95 percent of Thessaloniki's Jewish population—the largest in Greece before the war—was slaughtered. The entirety of Molho's maternal family perished in Auschwitz by 1943; he and his parents were the sole survivors. Molho believes his survival is attributed to three things: good luck, his parents' courage in deciding to leave, and the people who were willing to risk everything to help.

Amanatidou asked Molho why he waited so long to write this memoir. "I learn slowly," he responded at first, then, "This was not an easy exercise."

The act of writing it was complicated by the fact that Molho was so young when the events occurred. Sparking a discussion of memory, Bartov asked Molho how he differentiated between

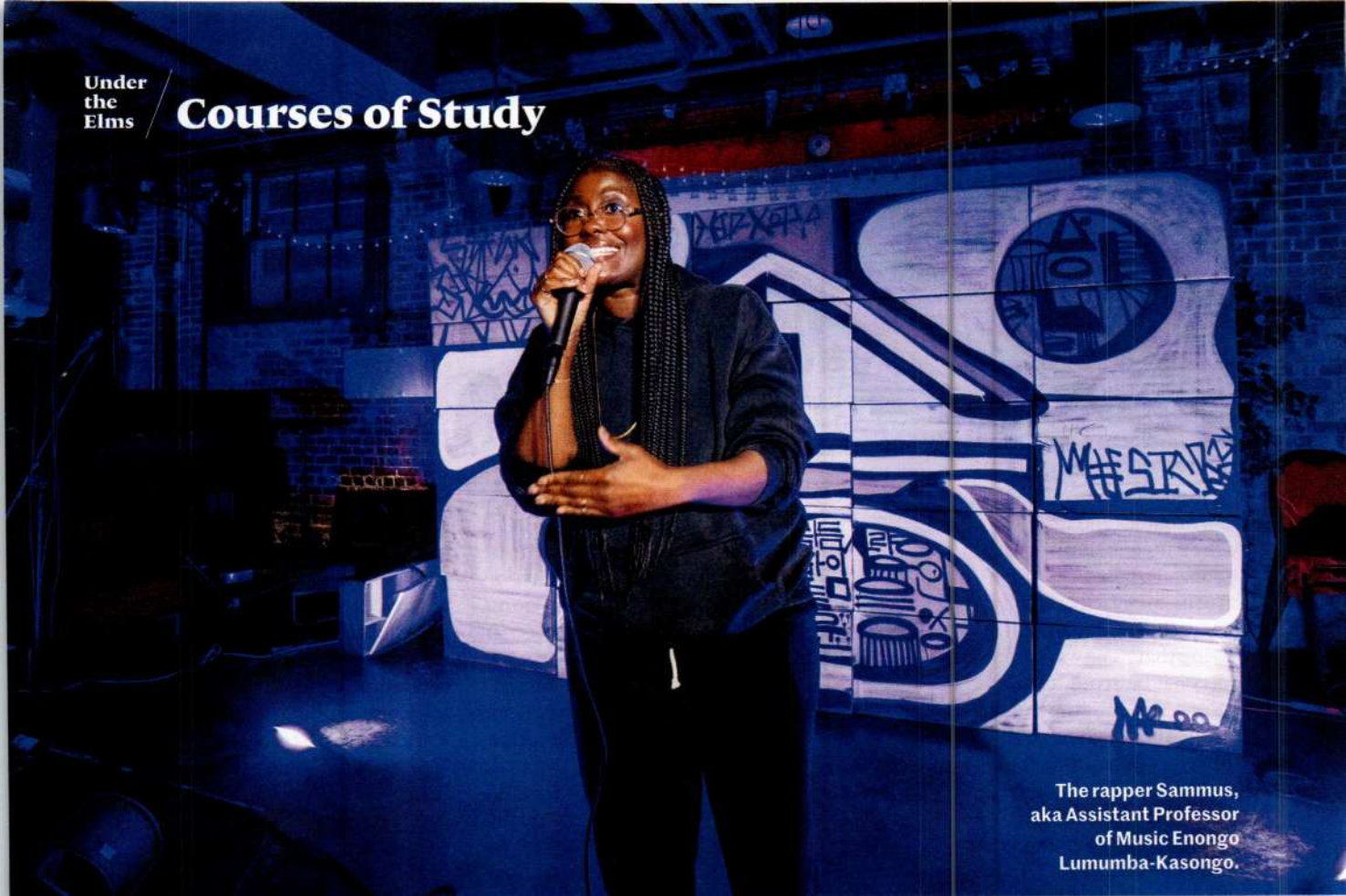


released in the U.S. last June. The book, first published in Greek in 2023 under the title *The Banality of Kindness*, won the Academy of Athens's Ouranis Prize. On March 6, Molho, the David Herlihy University Professor Emeritus, sat down in Rhode Island Hall to discuss the memoir with Omer Bartov, the Samuel Pinar Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and Elsa Amanatidou, director of modern Greek studies.

"It would be foolish of me to conceal my emotion at being here today," Molho said to an audience so big the event

his own memories and things he was told. These stories, Bartov emphasized, are essential to archive now, as most survivors of the Holocaust have passed away, were too young at the time to remember anything, or struggle to discuss their experiences.

The conversation ended with a discussion about being a Jewish person today and the many divides within the Jewish community. "The major divide at the root of it all," Molho said, "is what are the moral consequences of the Holocaust?" —REBECCA GOODMAN '27



The rapper Sammus,
aka Assistant Professor
of Music Enongo
Lumumba-Kasongo.

‘Shift the Vibrations’

In Intro to Rap Songwriting, students learn to listen deeply, engage with a complex art form, and share their hearts. BY PEDER SCHAEFER '22.5 & RACHEL KAMPHAUS '25

“Who do you become through rap?” asks Enongo Lumumba-Kasongo, an assistant professor of music, in the syllabus for her course Intro to Rap Songwriting.

For Haleema Aslam '26, the answer is a transformed person. Learning the art form, she says, made her a more confident speaker, a better advocate, and a more courageous and bold performer. It gave her the bug for all things performance: “I ended up taking another acting class the following semester,” she says, and went on to give a TED talk in which she shared her story of escaping child marriage in Pakistan and eventually gaining asylum—and now citizenship—in the United States.

But joining the class in itself was a leap for Aslam, whose mother taught her that listening to music was a sin. Even though she moved here nearly a decade ago, Aslam says listening to music still made her feel guilty, like she “was doing something wrong.”

But she made the leap, learning alongside a dozen other students about the practical tools needed to write and record songs, as well as the basics of writing lyrics and the history of hip hop. By the end of the course, they had each created original compositions.

“It’s been absolutely beautiful,” Aslam says. “In psychology, if you have gone through trauma in life, you have to have an outlet to heal from that. This class is really allowing me that platform.”

RAPPER-SCHOLAR

Professor Lumumba-Kasongo doesn’t just teach rap—she lives it, as a professional rapper making music under the moniker Sammus. Although she had originally planned to go into science (she has a doctorate in science and technology studies from Cornell), her music career began taking off while she was a graduate student.

She was ready to put her career as an academic “on the shelf” to pursue music full-time, but then a friend sent her an application for a postdoc in Brown’s music department to

8&16

NUMBER OF BARS—ALSO KNOWN AS MEASURES—IN THE VERSES OF A TYPICAL RAP SONG. LATER VERSES ARE USUALLY 16 BARS, WHILE EARLIER VERSES ARE ONLY 8.

study and teach courses about Afro-diasporic musical practices. She ended up getting the job, which steered her back onto a college campus.

“It’s been a full-circle moment,” she says. “I’m in the same kind of space where I was cultivating my own musical practice in my dorm room, but I’m doing it now with students.”

Lumumba-Kasongo emphasises how to listen deeply. Distracted listening, she says, is the norm, but she challenges her students to sit and immerse themselves in one song or album for as long as it takes to understand the craft and technique the artist is using. Like a writer reading, a musician has to listen, explains Lumumba-Kasongo. It’s the first step in becoming a “thoughtful artist.”

Every week the students are assigned songs and write reflections on them, ranging from “Check the Rhime” by A Tribe Called Quest to “Bodak Yellow” by Cardi B. “In a world where it’s so hard to make change, I want to empower the students by showing that a song can do a lot of work,” she said. “We can shift the vibrations.”

SONGWRITING HOMEWORK

Students write and record their own songs with the help of a take-home recording kit that includes a mic, a USB cable to plug into a laptop, and an audio interface.

“Making this accessible is important in breaking that barrier,” said Marcus Grant ’23 AM, ’27 PhD, a teaching assistant for the course and a PhD student in ethnomusicology. “I’m encouraging people to do things that are very uncomfortable. It’s an opportunity to find out something new about yourself.”

Students are responsible for putting together three original projects: two verses of either 8 or 16 bars, and for the end of the semester, a full-length song, which is uploaded to a publicly available class mixtape.

Aslam, who says “my whole life, I have been struggling with what home is for me,” did her final project on getting U.S. citizenship and coming to live in Rhode Island. “For me

READ THE MUSIC

Lumumba-Kasongo encourages students to interface with the theory and history behind rap, reading chapters from *Black Noise: Rap Music and Black Culture in Contemporary America* by Tricia Rose, Brown’s Chancellor’s Professor of Africana Studies and Associate Dean of the Faculty for Special Initiatives.

Rose writes that location and identity are rap’s two main thematic concerns. With that grounding, it’s easier for students to write their own original work.

Students also engage with questions of Black masculinity in texts like Miles White’s *From Jim Crow to Jay-Z* and the queer origins of hip hop in Shanté Paradigm Smalls’s book *Hip Hop Heresies*.

DEEP LISTENING

Lumumba-Kasongo says she learned the term “deep listening” from Pauline Oliveros, a composer and sonic scholar. Some tips for getting started:

1. Listen to the song once through without taking notes. Try to feel exactly what the song is doing to your body. What forms of rhythm and rhyme are working?
2. Listen to the song again, but this time take notes about the craft and technique of the artist. How is the musician evoking certain feelings in the body? How is the artist building momentum?
3. Keeping the song in mind, how would it be possible to use those techniques in your own songwriting practice?

it is a land of opportunities/ To build my chosen family, I love my community/ My classmates and professors help me know I’m not alone/ Brown is now my family and Providence is home,” she raps.

Student George Dauda’s song focuses in part on the mundane experiences of day-to-day life: “Kick rocks—pass the lake and say bye/ If I’m aligned to the sky worldwide/ They would’ve never doubted G Dauda had shine/ Would’ve never pouted and rattled the mind/ At every checkpoint life relax my spine.”

For Dauda, a longtime fan of Sammus, taking the class “was a miraculous blessing, to meet someone who is one of my heroes.” It’s definitely worth the rushed Monday afternoon commute he makes from his job as a preschool teacher in Providence to Brown’s campus. He’s participating through a community fellows program run by Brown, which offers spots in classes for free to Rhode Islanders. “I’m learning so much from my fellow students,” he says.

A MUSICAL PUBLIC SQUARE

At the start of every class, students gather in a circle and Lumumba-Kasongo begins playing a beat. One by one, students leap into the center, taking turns freestyle rapping, sharing about the stress of upcoming finals, family troubles back home, whatever’s on their minds.

“It’s a way to disarm anxieties about sharing work with one another, but it’s also become a public square where we can offer what’s in our hearts,” Lumumba-Kasongo says.

It’s emblematic of a vulnerability that’s new to the rap scene. “Historically,” she explains, rap has been “about like, I’m really dope, or look at how awesome and amazing I am and all of the things that I own.” Now, “there’s definitely been a shift.” Artists like DoeChii and Open Mike Eagle “are expressing inner turmoil.”

That shift is welcome to Aslam, who says the class was so empowering that she urges all her classmates to take it. “When I hear other students express feelings of distress or betrayal,” she says, “it makes me comfortable to share the struggles of what I have been through in my life.”



When Doctors Make Mistakes

A film aims to show why the malpractice system isn't working—and what might. BY MICHAEL BLANDING

A few minutes into the 2024 documentary *A World of Hurt: How Medical Malpractice Fails Everyone*, medical law expert Richard Boothman explains that patients sue doctors and hospitals for three main reasons. “First, just a simple search for answers; secondly, a very powerful [desire] that what happened to them not happen to someone else,” says Boothman, chief risk officer of the University of Michigan health system. “And thirdly, there is a yearning for accountability, validation for their injury.”

Unfortunately, the American medical malpractice system rarely provides any of these outcomes, according to *A World of Hurt*, which was produced by Brown Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine Mark Brady ’09 MMSc, ’09 MD and directed by medical students Alexander Homer ’21, ’25 MD, and Viknesh Kasthuri ’21, ’25 MD.

A SYSTEM WITH NO WINNERS

“It’s human nature when something bad happens, or somebody dies, to want to find out the reason,” says Brady. “But the system is not set up for transparency. Whenever a question arises, the health system clams up and circles the wagons.” The only way for a patient or their family to get accountability, he says, is to go to court. Doctors and patients alike go through a long, often adversarial process that can lead

to mental anguish, substance abuse, and family strife. “We wanted to make a documentary explaining how this system is bad for everybody,” says Brady. “It hurts the therapeutic relationship patients have with their doctors, and it doesn’t serve patients either.”

Brady started working in television during an internship at Discovery Health Channel while a medical student; in 2015, he won an Emmy for a film about emergency medicine. Coming back to Brown in 2020, he started exploring the topic of medical malpractice—which, despite its prevalence, is rarely discussed in medical training. When mistakes happen, hospitals don’t say anything for fear it could be used in a lawsuit. Approximately 30 states have passed “I’m sorry” laws that allow doctors to apologize without retribution, but others, including Rhode Island, lack such protections.

LONG YEARS AND SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

Gita Pensa, Brown associate director of digital education, was sued in 2007 after she treated a patient who had come into the emergency department with eye pain and ultimately suffered a massive stroke from an undetected blood clot. For four years as the case was litigated, “I experienced a lot of sleeplessness, I wasn’t really present at home, I had a short temper—this terrible thing was happening to me, and I couldn’t talk about it with anyone,” Pensa says. She was even discouraged from seeking mental health treatment for fear



the plaintiff might use those records against her.

Pensa had gone to college on a scholarship and graduated from UPenn medical school with honors, sacrificing nights and weekends with friends and family to achieve her dream of becoming a doctor. “The litigation told me, you gave up all of these important things in your life, and now we think you are a terrible person and should quit practicing and pay tens of millions of dollars because you are that bad.”

She was exonerated in 2011, then in 2015 the verdict was overturned and Pensa faced four more years of court before being exonerated again. This time, she decided to fight against the stress, reading self-help and law books, seeing a therapist, and recording a podcast, *The L Word* (for litigation), about the experience, which she released after the trial. Now a coach for other doctors facing lawsuits, she says: “The first thing I do is normalize the process, teaching them about the realities of the medical system and helping them work out their grief. If you are a sentient human being who cares for people, which is most of us, it is going to cause a lot of pain.”

ALTERNATIVE MODELS

For students Kasthuri and Homer, the threat of malpractice looms over their future careers. “It’s the sword of Damocles facing every physician,” says Kasthuri, who wrote his undergraduate thesis examining when physicians order additional tests out of medical caution versus fear of lawsuits. The two interviewed dozens of doctors, patients, and lawyers before they found even a handful willing to go on camera.

“There is a culture in medicine that we don’t talk about the fact that we are human and mistakes are inevitable,” Homer says. “Yet we’ve seen from physicians who are sued that it changes their entire way of practice. While they may primarily view their patients as people they can help, in the back of their mind, it’s impossible not to worry, ‘Is the next patient going to sue me?’”

“People expect medicine to be a cookbook,” Pensa says, “but it’s mostly operating in the grey zone trying to make these difficult decisions. It’s impossible to be error-free.”

The film features the family of an injured patient who won monetary damages only to conclude the settlement was not worth the trauma of the lawsuit, and the wife of a doctor who ended up taking his own life due to the stress of the trial.

But much of *World of Hurt* focuses on alternatives to malpractice litigation, including the Michigan Model pioneered by Boothman, in which hospitals proactively conduct an investigation when adverse events occur, explain to patients what went wrong and, when appropriate, offer compensation. Such options reduce lawsuits overall, are cost-neutral for hospital systems, and are more satisfying for patients.

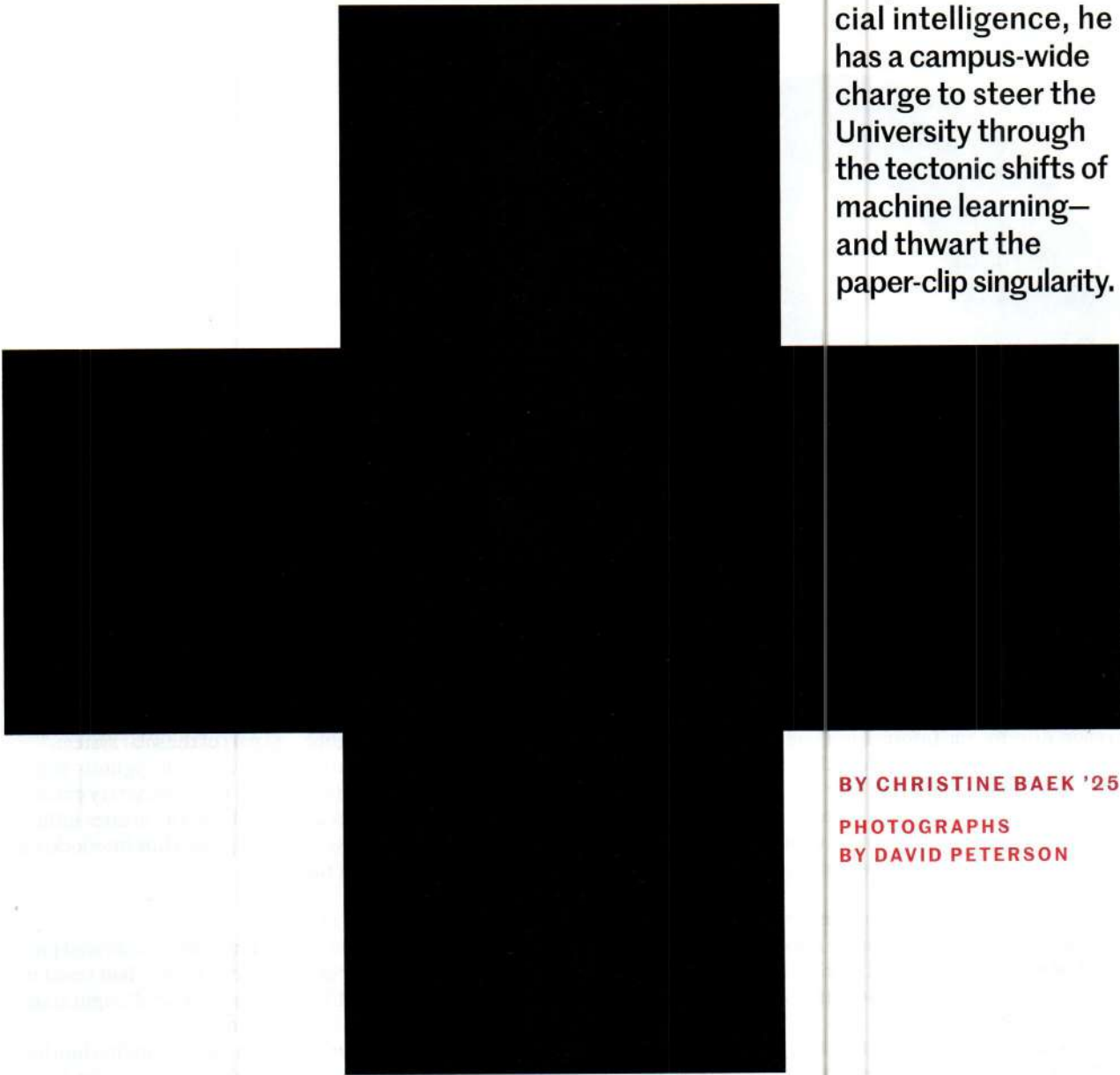
The filmmakers hope to shine a light on the value of those alternatives, as well as break through the culture of silence. “One of the responses we heard about including this in the medical school curriculum is ‘We don’t want to scare people off,’” says Kasthuri. “But that’s not how we treat anything else in medicine—heart attacks are scary, but we still talk about them. Our hope with our film is we can encourage more conversation and help create a cultural shift.”

SHOW ME THE MONEY

“Lawyers are like, ‘This is a business, it’s just the insurance that is going to pay, it’s not about you,’” Professor Mark Brady ’09 MMSc, ’09 MD says. “But from the physician perspective, how could they not take it personally?” In 2023 there were a total of 11,440 medical malpractice claims reported in 2023 to the National Practitioner Data Bank. These claims resulted in settlement payouts (verdicts not included) of \$4.8 billion. That works out to an average per-claim payout of around \$420,000. —MB.



Man



Michael Littman '96 PhD is known for his high-energy playfulness and the deep insights he honed as the NSF's outgoing AI czar. Now, as Brown's first associate provost for artificial intelligence, he has a campus-wide charge to steer the University through the tectonic shifts of machine learning—and thwart the paper-clip singularity.

BY CHRISTINE BAEK '25

PHOTOGRAPHS
BY DAVID PETERSON

Machine

After winning the award for “The Professor You Would Most Likely Accidentally Call Dad,” Littman gave his students a brief stand-up routine on dads vs. fathers.



In a breezy July morning in Alexandria, Virginia, Michael Littman '96 PhD pulled up to the National Science Foundation on his electric unicycle, planning to conduct a little experiment on whether AI might try to destroy humanity.

Littman, who had just started his three-year term as the division director for Information and Intelligence Systems (IIS) at the National Science Foundation (NSF)—in layman's terms, the foundation's AI czar—entered the gleaming nineteen-story crescent of glass and steel, ambled across the lobby's white marble floors dotted with security guards, suit-clad science experts, and guests on standby for badges, and pressed the elevator button.

A new colleague had complained that Littman hadn't yet decorated his office. In response, Littman decided to test a theory of mass destruction. Exiting the elevator, he strolled through the maze of glass offices and water dispensers to begin addressing the bare walls.

He typed his request into DALL-E, the AI image generator: “Make a globe out of paper clips.”

If the world aligned with philosopher Nick Bostrom's famous thought experiment on AI, Littman's request would have triggered the apocalypse. “The system would reason, well, if I'm going to maximize paper-clip production, then

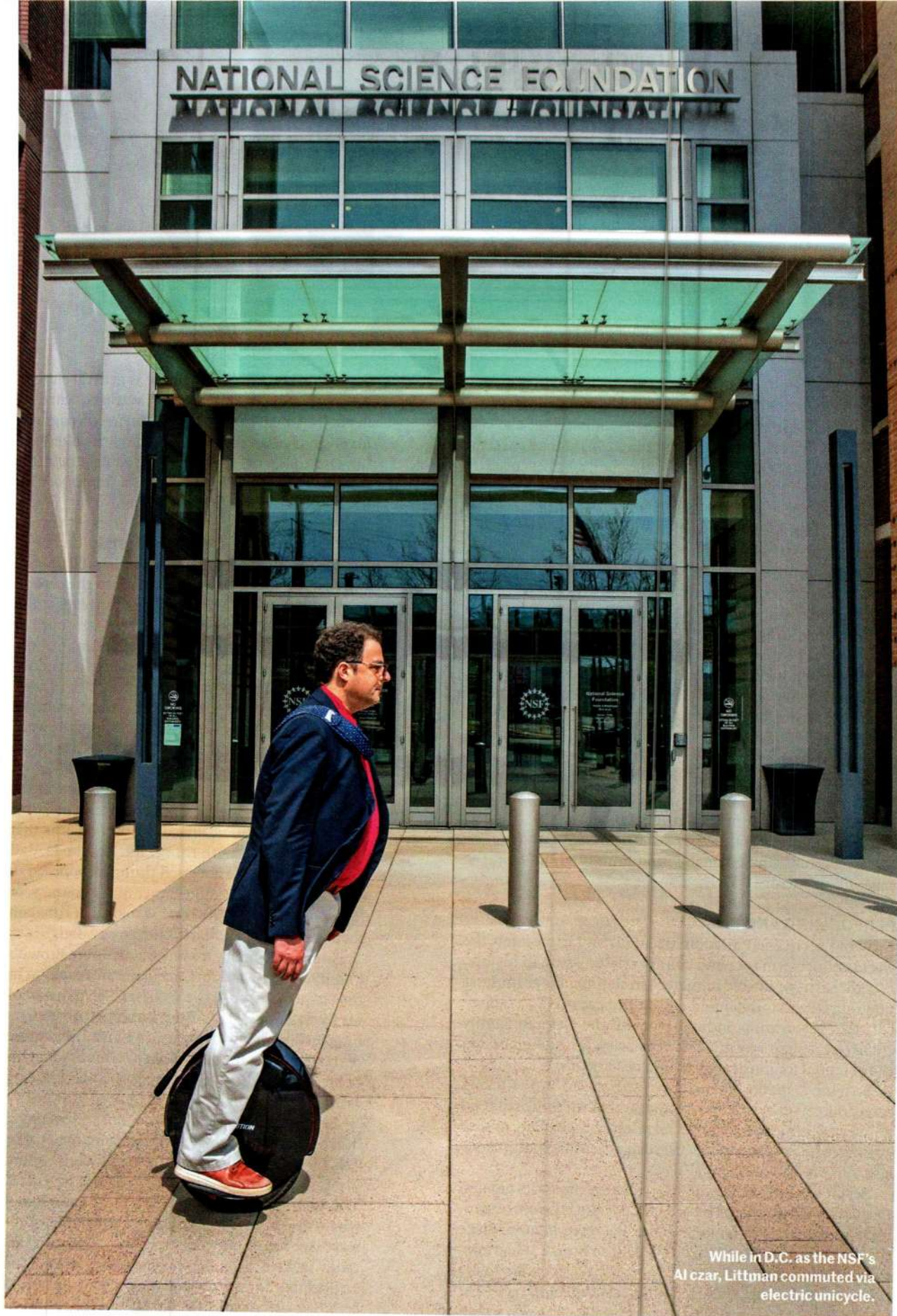
what I need to do is not allow anybody to turn my systems off, which people could do. So I'm gonna kill all the people.” Littman explains, “In fact, I can reuse the iron in their blood to make paper clips. So I'm gonna recycle the people. In fact, I can actually turn the entire earth into paper clips, and probably the whole neighboring part of the solar system.”

The computer fan gave an ambiguous hum. The result could be office art or planetary extinction by AI. Not a minute later, the printer mildly ejected a glossy image of paper clips interlocking in the shape of the Earth.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Just a few years earlier, Littman, a celebrated professor of computer science at Brown, had stood in a completely different world—one of bright stage lights, groovy music, and movement.

It was showtime. Alumnae Hall auditorium became a disco of flashing white and red light, filled with the sounds of clapping and fancy footwork. To usher in that year's Dancing with the Profs, a Brown University annual tradition, the auditorium had been transformed into a dance floor.



While in D.C. as the NSF's
AI czar, Littman commuted via
electric unicycle.

**To the tune of Michael Jackson's "Thriller,"
Littman, dressed in a red and black leather
moto jacket, belts out lyrics on standard
deviation and the Bellman equation.**



As "Good Golly Miss Molly" began to blast from the speakers, a great spotlight illuminated Littman. Sporting a shiny black vest and dance pants, he loudly clapped to the beat of the drums. When he pointed at his dance partner [then-undergrad] Quynh Tran '16, the spotlight flew over to Tran, who struck a pose, hands and polka-dotted pink skirt fanned out. The crowd roared in approval as Littman knee-slid over to her. Then the two dancers began to twist, turn, and shimmy to the rhythm.

While executing the fast-paced swing-dance choreography, Littman psyched himself up for the killer move. Tran stood at one end of Alumnae Hall, her back to him and legs spread dramatically shoulder-width apart.

The move he was about to make, a floor slide through the space between his dance partner's legs, could be a pivotal moment of victory or potential medical disaster. He remembered how earlier, in rehearsal, he had crashed into a narrowly separated set of trash cans standing in for Tran's legs, debris spilling across the wood-paneled floor.

Sweating, he began to spiral. "Oh, my! Gosh! I'm gonna kill this woman! This is gonna be terrible. I'm gonna wreck her legs. I'm gonna ruin her dancing career."

He went for it—and to the cheers of students and professors in the audience, Littman found himself gliding out the other side to victory.

PERFORMING AND PUZZLES

Growing up in the Philadelphia suburbs, Littman felt the worlds of performance and coding crisscrossing in his life. Whether as a 13-year-old immersed in rudimentary computer programs from store-bought cassette tapes, or as an a cappella singer performing on holidays with the Littman Family Quartet, Littman was driven by curiosity, seeing humor and the potential for musical theater in just about everything.

Striving to merge his two cherished worlds into a lifelong career, Littman says: "I like to say that the two things that really are exciting to me are performing and puzzles. And so getting to be a professor was just such a great fit. Because how else can you do that?"

Set on teaching at Brown, his graduate-school alma mater, Littman applied and was passed over five times before becoming a professor of computer science at Brown in 2012. Since then, Littman has cofounded BIG-AI, the Brown Integrative General Artificial Intelligence group; served as associate department chair in 2018; and still codirects the Humanity-Centered Robotics Initiative with Bertram Malle. He's also served

on national boards, for example as general chair of the International Conference on Machine Learning in 2013. Littman's awards alone run to two pages on his CV, including for papers with names like "Acting Optimally in Partially Observable Stochastic Domains" and "Markov games as a framework for multi-agent reinforcement learning."

As tech-y as all that sounds—and is—take one look at his website, Littmania, or sit in on one of his lectures and that undeniable musical flair is on full display. In one of his videos, set to the tune of Michael Jackson's "Thriller," Littman, dressed in a red-and-black leather moto jacket, belts out lyrics on standard deviation and the Bellman equation—to the hums and harmonies of a student a cappella group.

In another class, after hearing some students say he makes "dad jokes" and winning the award for "The Professor You Would Most Likely Accidentally Call Dad" at a CS student end-of-year-party, Littman gave his students a brief stand-up routine on dads versus fathers before lecturing on machine learning. "I was basically riffing on how it is that Dad is associated with things like dad bods, dad jokes, and these are not good things as opposed to say, Father. You have, like father of the country, or father of the field, right? So I just kind of riffed on them, talked about what it's like to be a dad."

Among Littman's teaching awards are Brown's Philip J. Bray Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Physical Sciences; the Warren I. Susman Award for Excellence in Teaching, Rutgers University's highest honor for outstanding and innovative performance in the classroom by a tenured faculty member; and Duke University's Robert B. Cox Trinity College Distinguished Teaching Award.

At one point, Littman's classroom antics landed him a role in a national advertisement for TurboTax. Littman recalls: "A family friend was bringing his daughter to check out Brown, and he asked, 'Can we sit in on your class?' and I was like, 'Sure, I would love to have you.' I did my thing and he contacted me a week or two later, saying, 'Hey, so I'm actually in advertising.' Apparently, they'd YouTube stalked me, and they asked me to be in a national commercial." As a result, Littman in his appropri-

A man with dark hair and red-rimmed glasses, wearing a dark blue suit, a red shirt, and a blue patterned tie, is juggling three balls. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The balls are green, yellow, and red. He is standing in front of a grey, textured wall.

Can Coding Spark Joy?

"Don't freak out!" Michael Littman urges the reader at the start of his new book, *Code to Joy: Why Everyone Should Learn a Little Programming*. He wants us all to be programmers, but not in the way that is making

some of you lace up your running-away shoes. Littman shows how simple and natural coding can be, by explaining it through such examples as the Hokey Pokey and how Wordle works, square-dancing and how to tell Godzilla and Titanosaurus apart. He also shares funny stories about times he's tried to tinker with the coding of household appliances and gives various star ratings for how successful he was.

Released last year, *Code to Joy* aims to demystify code's inner workings. But really using code right has

been a bit hard, he admits—until now. "Traditionally, it's been very hard to code, to put those magical symbols into the right order to get the behavior that you want," Littman says. "But these AI systems that we've got now can help meet us part way." Instead of our computers running only what other people told them to run, Littman says, "I think one of the things that AI could give us is the ability to just interface better with these machines, and therefore unlock capability, and empower us to get the things done that we want to get done."

“What can we be doing to make AI something that empowers everybody on campus and gives us superpowers if possible? It’s just so exciting.”



ately “tech genius” outfit of a blue button-down and slacks hit millions of TV screens during NFL playoff games and *Saturday Night Live*—all thanks to the power of performance.

NATIONAL AI STRATEGY

When Littman got an invite from the NSF in 2022 to become their next AI Director, he thought he’d just missed the hype.

To Littman, 2016 had been the year for artificial intelligence. Google had released its first voice-activated smart speaker, Google Home, that would become a fixture in the living rooms of millions of people. DeepMind’s AlphaGo had just defeated the world champion Lee Sedol at Go, one of the world’s most complex strategy games, a feat accomplished a whole decade earlier than many thought possible.

Nestled in his third floor office at the CIT, Littman thought, “I missed the really exciting time, but AI’s still probably pretty cool. So I think I could be at NSF for a couple of years.”

Looking back, Littman laughs, “AI had not finished having its moment when I got here.”

Walking into HQ on his first day, Littman recalls: “They said, ‘Great, you’re now the cochair of the AI R&D IWG. And, by the way, as cochair, you’re responsible for writing the National AI R&D Strategic Plan.’ And I’m like, ‘What? Now?’”

Helping lead the AI Research and Development Interagency Working Group, or the AI R&D IWG (Washington D.C. is big on acronyms, Littman discovered), to Littman, was like entering a scene from *Avengers: The Department of Justice*. The FBI. The Patent and Trademark Office. He remarks in awe, “Sounds almost like something from a comic book. So that’s kind of cool. All these agencies that I only knew of as either words or background in some movie, like, they’re real people, and they’re doing real things. And I was helping to run the organization that was keeping everybody in the loop with each other.”

His team in developing the National AI Research and Development Strategic Plan included cochair representatives from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Department of Energy. Among the strategic plan’s key priorities are increasing public access to dataset and AI training, incorporating ethical and legal implications into AI education, and communicating federal workforce priorities to stakeholders. Littman, as cochair of the committee charged with developing the strategic plan, acted as a key touchstone between policymakers, tech experts, and industry leaders at such stakeholder events. However, as serious as these events could be, occasionally Littman’s more

laid-back, wise-cracking side slipped out.

Preparing to speak to Congressional staffers at the U.S. Capitol, Littman lingered beneath the landmark building’s iconic dome, its curved silhouette opening up to a grand marble rotunda. Littman knew what he had to say and how he had to say it. Today was all about “What is NSF? What is AI? What is the NSF strategy with respect to AI?” He took a breath and got up to the podium to speak.

Looking down at the crowd seated before him, Littman noticed that, instead of silver-haired senators, the eager faces of Congressional staffers, many in their 20s and 30s, stared up at him. “Bright, young people who are just fresh out of school—they’re the ones actually figuring things out and doing all the legwork,” Littman recalls. “It’s very impressive but it was so funny. It felt like lecturing in college. It was like college student or grad student faces in this room.”

He accidentally slipped into his professor persona. A joke here, a wry quip there.

“No jokes,” warned the assistant director from Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE). “If you make a joke where you’re being a little bit cute, it’s really easy to take it out of context and make it look bad.”

A NEW ROADMAP

In February 2025, just weeks into President Donald J. Trump’s second term, Littman appeared in a follow-up interview more subdued and circumspect. On his first day in office, Trump had issued the executive order “Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence,” thus revoking the Biden administration’s executive order on AI, which aimed to promote “safe, secure, and trustworthy development and use of artificial intelligence.” To Littman, “a thing that we spent basically two years trying to follow up on and get all the pieces to come together on was more or less taken off the table.”

Regarding his priorities at NSF, Littman remarks, “Oh boy, I actually had a bunch. But now every day there’s a new thing that we are asked to grapple with. It’s been nonstop whack-a-mole, so I don’t even know which of them are still valid.”



With his contract at NSF set to end in July, Littman mourns the lost opportunities that the federal chaos has caused: “I don’t have a ton of time left and I was really hoping to get a couple of things done. I’m sad that I can’t even really work on them because of these emerging issues, but much higher priority items are facing the agency now.”

Another challenge has been the recent federal hiring freeze: “They won’t be able to replace me when I leave. We were going to be basically interviewing people soon and now that’s all shut down until January, and possibly indefinitely.”

While Littman felt AI would definitely be one of the Trump administration’s priorities, he maintains, “It’s really rough on everybody here who takes it as their mission to support the research enterprise across the entire country and has dedicated their lives to that. They feel very much like they themselves are being targeted.”

Before returning to Brown this summer, Littman says he hopes to finish up two projects—establishing an AI roadmap for NSF, one that could help introduce agency newcomers to NSF’s current AI portfolio and future initiatives, and coordinating a “mini internal educational push” on AI for non-AI folks at NSF.

“I’ve been away from Brown for three years and so kind of preparing lessons around AI for NSF staff is something I’m really pleased to get to do,” he says. “I miss teaching.”

AI FOR GOOD

With his return to College Hill in July, Littman will both go back to teaching and take on a big new role as the University’s first associate provost for artificial intelligence. Littman was immediately drawn to the position when it surfaced on his employee portal in April 2024. “I really love the way that the job ad was written, actually, because it highlights five different

areas.” Littman lists them off: “research, teaching, operations, policy, and communications. I mean, all these things are happening. The Brown campus is already abuzz with AI activity on all those fronts. So getting to be someone to help coordinate that across the entire campus across all these different efforts is really a wonderful opportunity.”

In October, he applied, was interviewed, and given the offer. While Littman made his NSF contract end date known, his onboarding tasks started this January. Describing his role as “half in the provost’s office and half in the computer science department,” Littman spent a lot of time in January and February coordinating meetings with various leaders on campus, getting a broader view of the University while reconnecting with “old friends, people I knew in my previous role,” in a new context.

“One of the big reasons for trying to get up to speed quickly is because AI is moving really fast. We’d like to be able to let our alumni know what it is that we’re trying to do in case they have resources and are interested in helping. That means communicating a clear message to them about what we’re trying to accomplish, who’s on board, and how we’re going to do it.

“I’m really excited to be back on campus. I left during the pandemic, when the campus kind of felt weird. People were scattered, and it was all very Zoom-based. I feel like it’s been basically pre-pandemic since I’ve really gotten to have the Brown experience,” Littman says. “And so, as you might imagine, I’m really excited to be part of that again.”

As associate provost for AI, Littman is excited to help shape Brown’s campus-wide pursuit of AI for the common good. “What can we be doing to make this something that empowers everybody on campus and gives us superpowers if possible? It’s just so exciting and I feel like Brown is just the perfect place to do this kind of creative experimentation. There are just so many people with so many wonderful perspectives that I think we can blend together and do something very cool.”

Christine Baek ’25 is an international & public affairs and environmental studies concentrator.



FOOD FIGHTS

In her latest book, former chef and current food science professor Charlotte Biltekoff bites into processed food and the politics of knowledge. BY ERIK NESS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TIM ARCHIBALD

Is processed food always bad for you? Is “real food” any better? Charlotte Biltekoff ’00 AM, ’06 PhD, a professor of food science and technology at UC Davis, won’t answer that question directly. “That’s unsatisfying for some folks,” she says, but—ever the educator—“I do hope to entice them into a different conversation.”

Her latest book, *Real Food, Real Facts: Processed Food and the Politics of Knowledge*, is a dense deep-dive into an ongoing culture war that heated up at the turn of the 21st century around what we eat and what happens to it before it lands on our plate.

On one side, you have authors like journalist Michael Pollan (*In Defense of Food*) and NYU public health nutritionist Marion Nestle (*Food Politics*) talking about “whole food” and the social, cultural, and economic systems involved in food production. Biltekoff calls this framework “Real Food.”

On the other side are trade associations like the International Food Information Council (IFIC) and the Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA), which go to great lengths to explain that your triple-washed organic spinach and Pollan-approved olive oil are in fact “processed” and that there’s a long list of unpronounceable ingredients in a simple banana (see sidebar). This “Real Facts” framework uses “food scientism” to try to educate consumers out of their skepticism of the food industry.

Biltekoff’s book looks at the “knowledge politics” behind this food fight—but it’s a painstaking history, not a polemic. And her refusal to provide a sound bite on processed food makes sense for a professor who teaches both in the College of Agriculture and in American Studies where, according to the department website, she “builds bridges between scientific and cultural approaches to questions about food and health.”

PROCESSED-FOOD ROOTS

Biltekoff grew up in Buffalo, New York, which she later learned was a test market for the fresh creations of food science. Her young mind may have been among the first to encounter chicken nuggets shaped like dinosaurs and yogurt in a tube.

The Sunday paper was a special event for Biltekoff. Most kids would sift out the comics, but not young Charlotte. She wanted the advertising inserts, the glossy pages touting new food products. “They were colorful, they were outlandish, they were fun,” she recalls. “First thing I would collect them and sit down and just turn every single page of these wild food advertisements. I found them totally fascinating.

“New forms, new shapes, new flavors. I couldn’t help but wonder what was the machine behind this,” she says. And

the ideas! “There was somebody out there who was trying to imagine what people wanted,” she says, still enthralled.

Food processing ran in her family. In 1931 her great-grandfather founded Bison Foods, a dairy processor. Trucks rolled into the city with milk from upstate dairies. Bison’s best known for its French onion dip, which has its own Facebook page for the obsessed. But at age 13, Biltekoff’s axis shifted. Her family sold the business and she turned vegetarian, though not for ethical or environmental reasons. “It was just: stop eating meat,” she remembers. “Just trying a new diet.”

Her interest in food continued in college at Wesleyan until she exhausted the syllabus of possible food-related courses. Cultural studies was the lens that she loved, but “I wanted it to be about food, and it wasn’t,” she says. “Food Studies didn’t exist.” So in 1991, after two years, she dropped out of college and moved to San Francisco to “work with vegetables.”

“That was exactly what I told my parents,” Biltekoff told the Association for the Study of Food and Society, “and you can imagine how much they loved the idea.”

By luck, Biltekoff landed at the iconic upscale vegetarian restaurant Greens, so popular it had spawned a cookbook (and would publish two more). “I was probably the most inexperienced person ever to work on the line,” Biltekoff laughs.

Greens, out on a pier with views of the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz, “was a total dream. It was the perfect place for me. It was not nearly as toxic as what most people think of as restaurant kitchens now.” Starting on the prep crew, she progressed to pizzas, then sauté, then the mesquite grill.

But as Biltekoff and her friends reveled in the food scene, she began to rethink her vegetarianism. Despite Greens’s haute cuisine, “I felt like I was experiencing such a limited part of the art of food and cuisine and cooking,” she says. To expand her options she taught herself to eat meat again, even as the vegetarian fare that she served up every day at work was gaining ethical and environmental momentum.

Biltekoff seriously explored opening up a restaurant with two colleagues, but from that precipice went back to college at University of California, Berkeley, to finish her undergraduate degree.

BANANAS CHEMISTRY

FOOD POLITICS 101

At some point during that time, on a bottom shelf at Green Apple Books, she stumbled upon a dusty copy of *Perfection Salad*, a history of 19th century dietary reformers by journalist Laura Shapiro. These domestic reformers championed industry and precision and the new science of nutrition. They wanted to address the biggest social problems of the day by teaching people to eat right.

The girl with the newspaper inserts, the student who left school for vegetables, had found her template for studying food history. The book—and its curious parallels with the Bay Area food scene—shaped her inquiry for the next 20 years.

Across the Bay in Berkeley, Alice Waters was expanding her vision of food beyond her pioneering restaurant, Chez Panisse. “There was a real sense of passion and energy and momentum around the idea that it mattered what we ate, not just for our own bodies, but for the world, for the future, for social well being, for planetary well being,” says Biltekoff. “I found this idea of food politics very alluring, and this idea that there was going to be a kind of social revolution around good food that was going to change our diets and maybe our society as well.

“The wild thing is that Alice Waters and her social movement were saying the exact same thing” as the domestic reformers, says Biltekoff. “Their idea of a good diet could not have been more opposite, but their idea about why it mattered to change people’s eating habits was very much the same.” Separated by 100 years, they were advancing totally different ideas about a good diet, but they were driven by the same assumptions about the socially and politically transformative nature of teaching people to eat right.

The domestic reformers wanted homes to be a place where women practiced science and engineering, standardizing recipes and measuring their outcomes with nutritional science. Eating was for energy, and pleasure was seen as a threat to the rational will to eat the right foods to produce energy for work.

A century later Alice Waters wanted to get back to the senses, to connect with heritage and tradition. “We need to get our hands dirty, we need to be less standardized, exactly the opposite,” says Biltekoff. “Alice Waters is all about pleasure, and about how the sensory pleasure is the gateway into eating right.”

Biltekoff wrote her senior thesis “on the relationship between Progressive era dietary reformers and Alice Waters and her ‘Delicious Revolution,’ which was happening all around me,” she told the Association for the Study of Food and Society. Feeling she lacked the tools to “really understand dietary reform the way I wanted to,” she says, prompted Biltekoff to apply to graduate school at Brown.

In late 2013, James Kennedy, a chemistry instructor in Australia, made a basic graphic about bananas. His ingredient label simply listed out every chemical constituent of the “all-natural” banana. It’s mostly water and sugars, but also has tryptophan and stearic acid and traces of flavor molecules like 3-methylbut-1-yl ethanoate.

The graphic went viral, written up in the *New York Times* within a month. Kennedy followed up with similar breakdowns of “all-natural” foods like strawberries, blueberries, kiwi, and coffee.

You can see the exercise as purely educational, but it’s also a dig. It assumes that people are concerned about processed food because they just don’t understand that all food is made of chemicals, and that most chemicals have scary sounding names.

Biltekoff calls this the “Real Facts” frame in her analysis of the fight over processed foods. A key assumption made by this perspective is that the concerns about processed food voiced by the opposing “Real Food” frame are the result of deficits of scientific knowledge and understanding.

Kennedy’s approach “was meant to educate people out of those irrational views,” says Biltekoff. “These assumptions underlie a lot of other things that have been produced by trade associations and science-communication people on processed food.”

Biltekoff’s research shows that while knowledge deficits do exist, these don’t actually drive the “Real Food” skepticism about processed food. Widespread concerns about processed food and the food system have real factual and conceptual bases. “Real Food” proponents are critiquing the food system for health and environmental impacts ranging from lack of regulation for food additives all the way to problems with labor and environmental equity, explains Biltekoff.

“Schooling us about the chemical names for the ingredients in a banana does nothing to address any of that.”

FOODIE TURNED PROFESSOR

If you’re wondering how a Bay Area foodie transitioned to the seven-year grind of a PhD in American Studies in Providence, your intuition is keen. “I did cry in the grocery store at first,” Biltekoff admits, missing the bright cornucopia of California produce.

Now she tries to go back to Rhode Island in the summertime to refresh her memories. “Eating giant fried scallops out of a paper bag at the beach, all of that...and then there’s Del’s frozen lemonade,” she sighs. The convergence of Italian and Portuguese cuisines and the sea, the shore food,



“In the industry, sometimes there’s this sense that the public doesn’t know what they’re talking about—you know, yogurt is processed and pasta is processed and so are Cheetos.”

the fried seafood culture... “Rhode Island has incredible, incredible cuisine,” she says.

Biltekoff’s career trajectory has her perfectly situated to translate between food scientists and foodies. “That is actually my job,” she says. And now, every year, as part of her work at UC Davis, she teaches the class she always wanted to take—a giant lecture class called Food in American Culture.

Her latest mission is detangling the many different arguments we have over processed food. What even *is* processed food? The public’s definition and the industry’s definition are different and ever-changing. “I’m really interested in its slipperiness and how it’s used and deployed in different ways and in different moments,” Biltekoff says.

GROWN OR MADE?

While the public sees processed food as any food that isn’t natural, has additives, or can’t be considered a whole food, the industry sees processed food as anything that has been prepared for mass distribution. Preparation can mean cleaning and packaging; removing the seeds from fruit before canning; a technical advancement, like genetically engineered strawberries; or doing anything to make a food more nutritious or shelf-stable, more convenient or more delicious. Food processing also allows economies of scale that reduce waste and cost.

“In the industry, sometimes there’s this sense that the public doesn’t know what they’re talking about—you know, yogurt is processed and pasta is processed and so are Cheetos,” Biltekoff says. “As the food industry has rightly pointed out, while the public has seemed to desire their food to be less processed, they still want it to taste good and last and not feel funny in their mouths and be familiar.”

Meanwhile, she adds, “when someone in the general population says ‘processed food,’ they’re talking about this list of 100 ingredients that doesn’t make sense for cheese.” And the “Real Food” folks are not just prioritizing that whole banana over, say, a banana-flavored diet soda, they’re looking at big forces that range far beyond field and fridge—how that banana was grown, who harvested it, the ramifications of shipping it. “The bigger questions really matter,” Biltekoff says. “We need to understand the social, ecological, and environmental systems in which food happens.”

We see this in the political tug-of-war over the migrant workers that make the food economy work, and in the animosity between vegans and carnivores. We see it in Red Dye 40 and the social costs of diabetes.

“What kind of food system do we want?” she asks. Do we want the farm-to-table fairytale of Instagram-worthy food and bird-friendly coffee? What does that cost, and can it feed the world? The questions are tangled and confusing, and in

Real Food, Real Facts, Biltekoff analyzes two poles of the debate. “These two worlds are functionally different and also intellectually different,” she says. That challenged her thinking. “The better job I did of being a cultural critic, the less legible or less effective I could be in food science and vice versa.”

One watershed event in this debate was the 2008 release of the documentary *Food, Inc.*, which raised alarms about the industrial production of meat, corn, and soybeans by a few large corporations. With the participation of Michael Pollan and *Fast Food Nation* author Eric Schlosser, the film gained wide distribution, showing up in school curricula.

The food industry responded with fewer processed products—but also countered with information and education campaigns, including a teaching guide to the movie.

“This looks like a contest over facts: who’s right, who’s wrong?” says Biltekoff. But she sees it as a failed tactic. The food industry doesn’t take the public’s views seriously, she says, dismissing critiques as irrational and misinformed, akin to anti-vax and climate denial rhetoric.

“Dismissing people’s concerns about technological or scientific innovation as purely misinformed and irrational is simply alienating and exacerbates the problem,” she says. When the industry runs informational gambits on us, the issue is that they aren’t just contesting facts. They are rejecting the idea that people should even question the system.

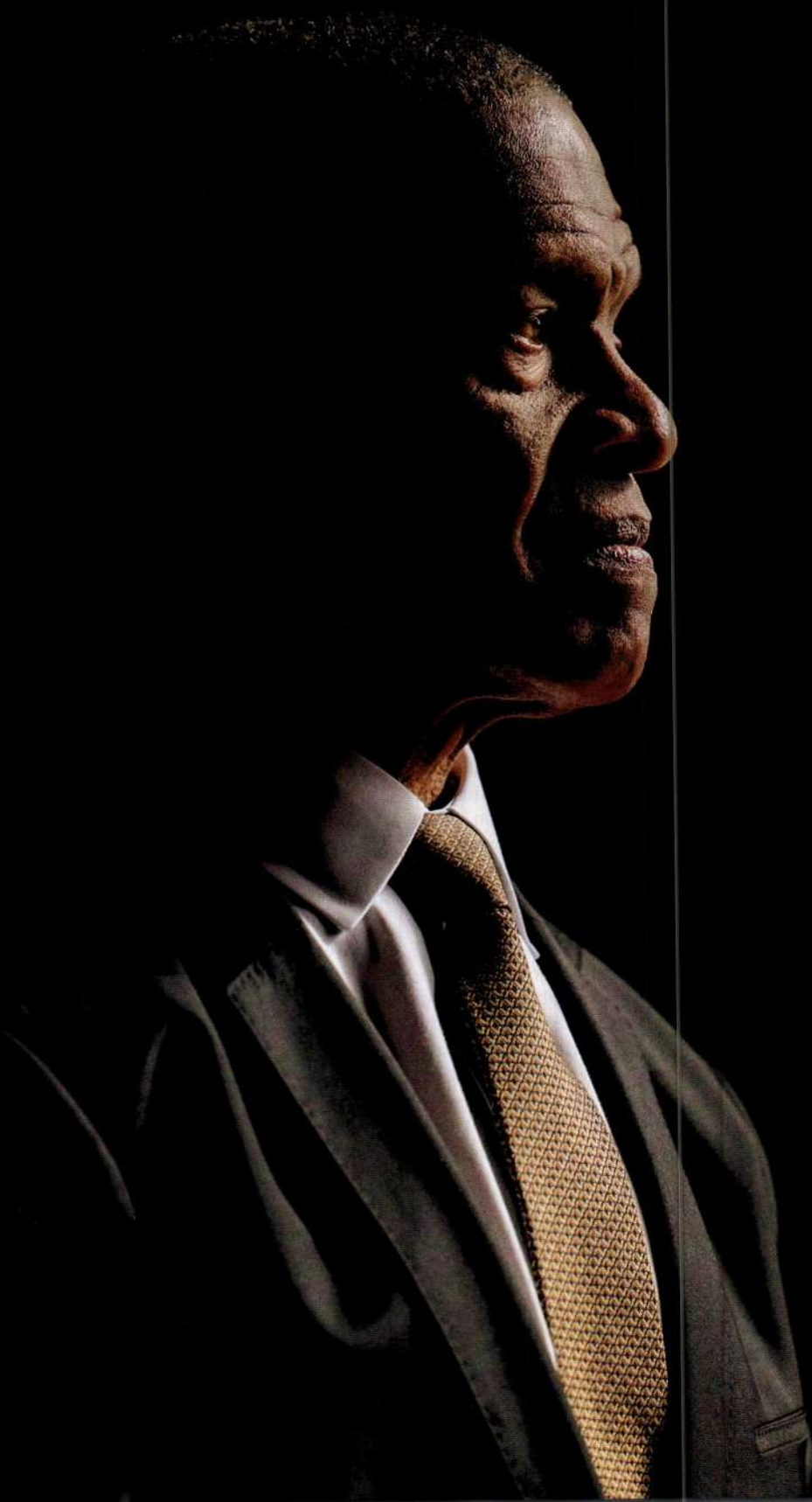
The kind of conflicts we’re having around food are very similar to, and maybe even inseparable from, larger post-truth politics. “Why can we not understand each other?” Biltekoff asks. “What is really going on here?”

As molecular biologist, nutritionist, and public health advocate Marion Nestle points out in her review of *Real Food*, the food industry’s response to consumers demanding “real” food “is based on the idea that if you could only correct public ignorance and misperceptions, you could sell your products more easily.” But, Nestle says, “public concerns about food are about politics, not science. And food scientism is a form of antipolitics.”

These differences, Biltekoff argues, are the key to moving forward. “There’s no problem in the world of food and agriculture that can be solved without our combined expertise,” she says. And when politics and conflict gets to be too much? “I like pasta with butter. Very small pasta with butter. That’s my go-to comfort meal,” she says. “Things are really bad? You will find me eating a bowl of buttered orzo.”

Is that a family recipe? She laughs again. “It just feels like it goes back forever, like, you know, to the shtetl.”

Erik Ness is a science and environmental writer based in Wisconsin. For more of his environmental writing, check out lemonadist.com.



Guarodlan

Erroll Southers '78, who was racially profiled as a kid in New Jersey, is now one of California's leading experts in law enforcement, campus safety, and homeland security.

By **Lorraine Ali**

Photographs by Joyce Kim

**"My dad said
'Erroll, you
can't change
the castle
from outside
the moat.'
Now, three law
enforcement
agencies later,
I'm in a posi-
tion to change
policy."**



Erroll Southers's resume reads like the treatment for a character in an action-packed Jerry Bruckheimer film. He was a gang-unit cop in volatile, 1980s Los Angeles, an FBI Special Agent, SWAT, and counterterrorism specialist handpicked by the president to protect the country.

"It's not quite like a movie but I guess I have been busy," laughs Southers, a '78 alum who still hasn't bothered to slow down.

Today he's president of the Los Angeles Police Commission, a civilian agency charged with oversight of the city's police force, and commissioner and associate senior vice president of safety and risk assurance at the University of Southern California, where he oversees three departments and 400 employees. When Southers is not at LAPD headquarters or assessing threats on campus, he's teaching. The former competitive body builder is a professor of the practice in national and homeland security and director of homegrown violent extremism studies at the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy.



Southers's passion for law enforcement and public safety is on display throughout his office in the LAPD's sprawling headquarters. A toy police chopper and old-fashioned paddy wagon sit atop a wooden file cabinet, right next to his 2024 Jack Webb Award from the Los Angeles Police Museum. A bookshelf holds his collection of counterterrorism and law enforcement books. Just outside the door in the hallway is a framed photo of Charles P. Williams, the first Black LAPD police officer to be killed in the line of duty in 1923.

Policing is not in Southers's family, but his father unknowingly planted the seed that informed

his son's trajectory. "It goes back to when I was a kid," says Southers, who is Black and grew up in a predominantly white New Jersey town. "My dad and I were having a conversation about one of the several times I'd been profiled by the police. He said 'Erroll, you can't change the castle from outside the moat.' So now, three law enforcement agencies later, I'm in a position to change policy. I'm in a position to affect recruitment and retention. I'm in a position to see that officers get discipline. I'm in a position to hold agencies accountable."

Southers cuts a clean figure in his starched white shirt, suit and tie. He stands rod-straight

In Southers's University of Southern California office, Captain America stands guard beside a small trove of awards and citations.

"I'm trying to get away from this zero sum mentality that America has right now, that if you're not for me, you're against me."

and walks at a fast clip, yet exudes a surprising warmth and openness. He appears to know just about everyone he passes in the long corridors of police headquarters, exchanging friendly banter with high ranking officials and respectful, reassuring nods with officers who look pleased to see Southers, yet still address him with a customary "Sir." "I have a whole different relationship with them [than past commissioners]," says Southers, 67. "Part of the reason they respect me is that I'm only the second former police officer to serve on the L.A. Police Commission since 1870. They will talk to me. I'm in their world. I understand them. And it also helps that a whole lot of these folks have been my graduate students over the past 20 years," he laughs.

Mayor of Los Angeles Karen Bass appointed Southers to the position, where he helms a group of five civilian managers appointed to set policy and oversee operations at the LAPD. "I have known Dr. Southers for many, many years," says Mayor Bass, who is perhaps the busiest woman in L.A. but took time out to talk about her appointee. "When I was in Congress and I served on the Judiciary Committee, I was in charge of police reform for the House of Representatives. He was a key expert that I called on as we developed the national legislation [for] the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

"But I remembered when President Obama nominated him to be the Assistant Secretary of the Transportation Security Administration," she continues. "I knew him when I was in the state legislature and he was an appointee of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger [as Deputy Director of Homeland Security]. The current governor also appointed him, so I've worked with Erroll on California's Commission on Hate. He's probably the most knowledgeable person to have ever served on the Los Angeles police commission."

Lessons learned on and off duty—and on and off campus—have informed Southers's journey from a pre-med student to a nationally recognized leader in public safety. "You have to win people's trust and make them comfortable," says Southers, a father of two and grandfather of two more. "Community is everything. If you don't have the community's trust, then all the policing in the world won't help.

"I'm trying to get away from this zero sum mentality that America has right now, that if you're not for me, you're against me," he adds. "I'm trying to make people understand that police reform does not equal defund the police. If you want to see change in these communities, often it comes from

people who come from these communities. So I have tried, like many of my peers, to successfully recruit people out of these communities. It's basically saying, Be the change that you want to see. However, I'm not silly enough to think that there aren't extremists or racists in law enforcement. But I now have a better opportunity to gauge and impact those kinds of problems when they pop up. It's an opportunity I would not have had if I was standing on the outside."

DOCTOR? NO!

Southers grew up in Fanwood, N.J., where his father worked as a draftsman and architect designing naval vessels for the U.S. military "in a classified facility in New York which I never got to see because, well, it was classified," recalls Southers. "My mom was the consummate overachiever. She was the first African American woman to graduate from Rutgers School of Pharmacy. Then, while raising my younger brother and me, she went back to school and got her teaching degree." Southers's father also ended up teaching after retiring from his architectural career, becoming the superintendent of several vocational high schools in New Jersey. Education would become a theme in Southers's life that still holds today.

As an undergrad at Brown, Southers imagined he'd go on to become an orthopedic surgeon, and he was accepted to the College of Medicine and Dentistry in New Jersey. It only took one summer course and a couple months into the fall semester for him to realize it wasn't for him. "One day I said, 'You know what? I don't want to do this anymore.' So I packed my stuff, gave my roommates my part of the rent for the rest of the year and left for L.A. with my girlfriend, who became my wife and the mother of my son," he says.

Southers searched for employment in Los Angeles while also pursuing his other passion: competitive bodybuilding. He trained at World Gym (where he met Arnold in 1981) and went on to win five amateur titles. Southers is still devoted to a stringent fitness regimen though now he works out in his own, state-of-the-art home gym.

His first foray into law enforcement came when he answered an ad in the paper for an animal control officer. "I didn't realize an animal control officer was just a fancy way of saying dog catcher," says Southers. The officers who interviewed him at the Santa Monica Police Department noted his sharp communication skills, commitment to physical fitness, and college degree. They convinced him to apply for a police officer position and he was hired

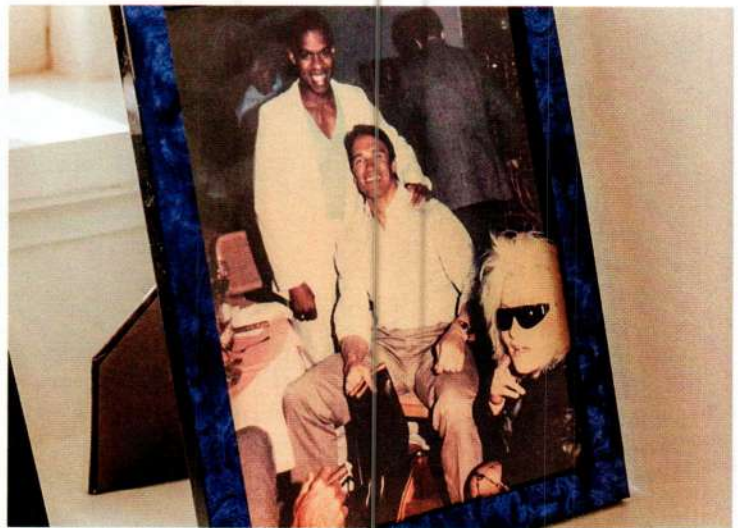


soon after. The year was 1980. Southers served as a police officer in the beachside city for four years, but like his parents, he still kept one foot in academia by serving as a faculty member training new recruits at the Rio Hondo police academy.

His life would take an unexpected change when a trio of FBI agents visited the police precinct. "I had the typical notion about the FBI that most cops have, which is that we don't want to be them. They don't want to be us. It was very competitive, especially back then," he says. They encouraged Southers to apply, but the young policeman was reticent because he "wanted to stay a cop." After some more encouragement from his colleagues and friends, including his body-building buddy Schwarzenegger, he applied to the FBI and was accepted.

Special Agent Southers eventually posted in San Diego near several military installations and the Mexican border, working many cases that he's still forbidden from discussing. But he will say his surveillance skills were honed over many hours of sitting in cars with binoculars and cold meals eaten out of Tupperware. Southers eventually joined the FBI's Special Weapons and Tactics unit, or SWAT, where he was deployed nationally to perilous situations such as a prison riot in Atlanta where hostages were taken. "I was also at the Bureau when the Challenger space shuttle exploded," he says. "Next thing we know we're working this as a terrorism matter. We worked on it as if it had been a sabotage until we proved it wasn't."

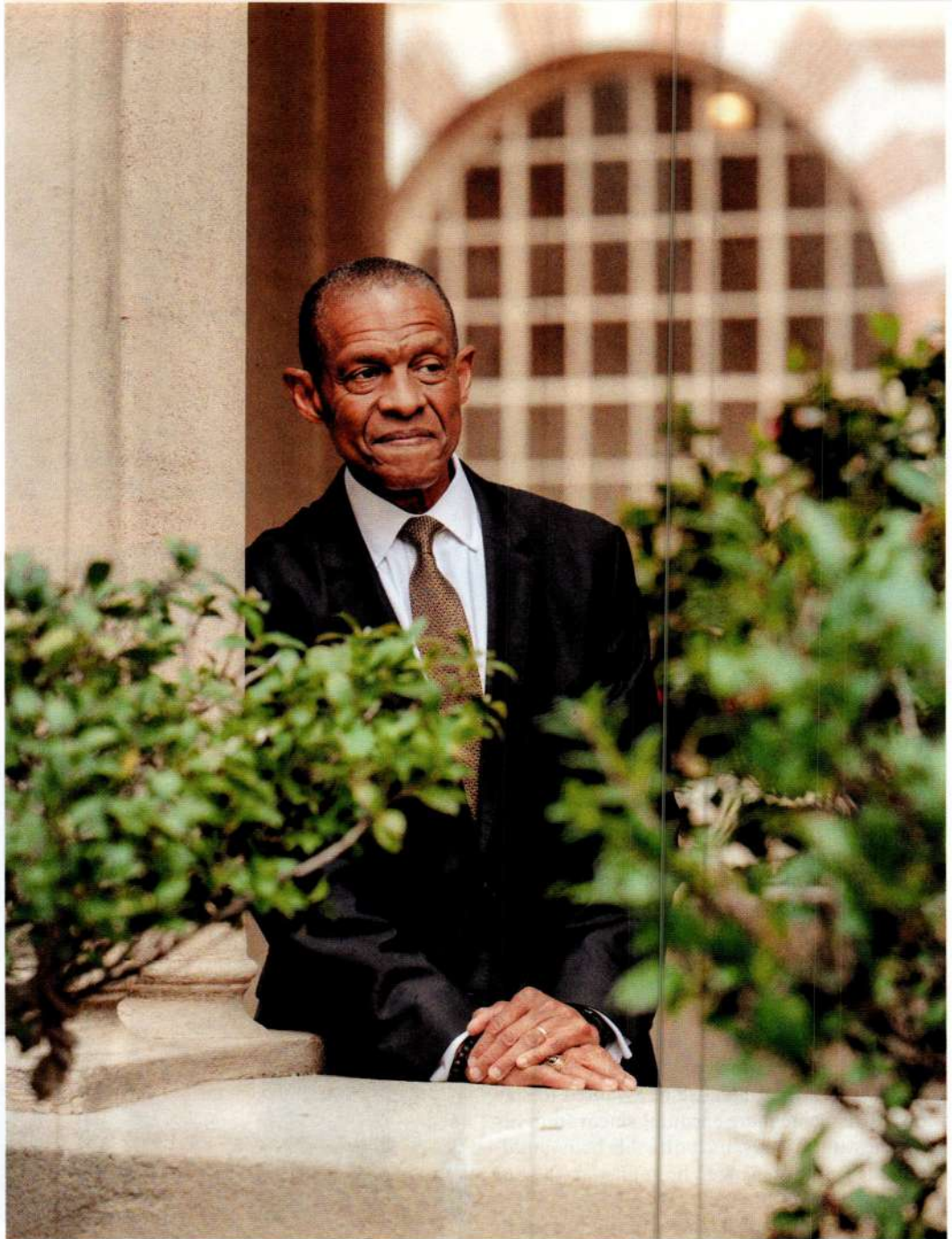
But Southers wanted to settle in Los Angeles to spend more time with his son (he'd since split with his first wife), so he left the FBI to rejoin the Santa



Monica Police Department where he was assigned to the gang unit during a particularly violent period in the city's history. He began to burn out witnessing so much carnage involving young people, and there were also "race problems" in the department. "It wasn't what I wanted out of the force, and it made me think there were better places to be."

He eventually signed on with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art as Assistant Vice President of Visitor and Protective Services, where he stayed for eleven years. "I was at LACMA when 9/11 happened," says Southers. "The director said to me, what do you want to do? I said, we stay open. And we did. People came in and thanked us. They needed some beauty. They needed to see something good about humanity."

Above, Southers with former LAPD Chief William Bratton. Below, with body-building buddy Arnold Schwarzenegger.



Southers teaches about homegrown violent extremism and oversees safety and risk assurance at USC.

Southers left in 2004 when he was appointed deputy director for critical infrastructure of the California office of homeland security by the new California governor, his old friend Schwarzenegger. In his role Southers was responsible for post-9/11 counterterrorism policy initiatives and measures to protect the state's critical infrastructure. By 2007, Southers was offered the post of assistant chief of homeland security and intelligence at the Los Angeles World Airports' police department, overseeing security at one of the country's busiest airports, and it's there he met a future president.

"It was the day after he had the debate with Senator Clinton in Los Angeles," recalls Southers. "He greeted everybody and then I was talking to

him one on one. He asked me what I do here, he talked about what a big job that is, and then asked me for my business card so I gave it to him. I said to myself, 'Well, that's going to go in his pocket with about 500 other cards. It was nice talking to him.' Then he said 'I'm going to have my people reach out to you.' And I'm saying to myself, yeah, sure. But here's the scary part: Two weeks later, I got a phone call. I happened to be walking across the street at the airport that day. Cops like to play practical jokes so I thought it was one of my guys playing a joke. I stopped in the middle of the street and started looking around the building to see who could see me. Like, who is this really?"

It was indeed an Obama representative. South-

ers's hard work had brought him within spitting distance of the White House. In 2009 he became Obama's first nominee for Transportation Security Administration Assistant Secretary ... and then politics got in the way.

His confirmation was put on hold following concerns by South Carolina Republican Sen. Jim DeMint that Southers might honor the Obama pledge to allow TSA workers to join unions. Four months and two congressional Senate hearings later, Southers withdrew his nomination. In a statement released by the White House, he said: "My nomination has become a lightning rod for those who have chosen to push a political agenda at the risk of the safety and security of the American people." Former DHS Undersecretary for Border and Transportation Security Asa Hutchinson said, "This is an example of someone getting caught in Washington's political crossfires over something that is candidly out of his control."

Southers, who'd since remarried, left law enforcement in 2010. He turned his energy toward education and teaching, earning a doctorate in policy, planning, and development from the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy in 2013, publishing the academic study "Homegrown Violent Extremism" the following year. To bolster his counterterrorism knowledge, Southers traveled to Israel where he was provided access to IDF posts to observe how they were managing border control and shared information regarding detection and prevention of the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Now Southers's expertise in counterterrorism and teaching skills are a rare and valuable combination sought out by institutions and states alike. He lectures frequently, including at the Pentagon, and was invited to China to assess the potential threats for the Beijing Olympics. But his views on new pockets of extremism in the U.S. aren't always welcome on Capitol Hill. Southers ruffled feathers when he testified before the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security in 2013 following the Boston Marathon bombing.

"The Boston Marathon bombing was conducted by terrorists who grew up within miles of where they committed their tragedy," he stated. "They were locals, educated, living and working in the area. Because of this, they knew the target environment and did not require training to familiarize themselves with the area and its protective measures. Put simply, Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev were homegrown violent extremists, and because of them, Boston joined a fraternity of cities around the world that have en-

dured terrorist attacks plotted and conducted by their own residents."

"They wanted to hear they were foreign terrorists, and I wasn't going to go there," he reflects. "I said the ideology is foreign, but the radicalization occurred in Boston. It wasn't a popular view."

But judging by the reception Southers received recently as he made his way across the USC campus, he appears to be quite popular. As associate senior vice president of safety and risk assurance at USC, he's terminally busy, but he always has a spare moment to chat with whomever he happens to run into on his way from point A to point B.

Over lunch at the University Club restaurant servers greet him with handshakes and hugs before updating him on their respective kids' progress in school. Connecting and communicating with those outside his field of work and study is an extra superpower for Southers. USC President Carol Folt points to his genuine interest in those around him as one of the many qualities that make him perfect for the job.

"Erroll is a collaborator with faculty from every background," she says of Southers, who moved into his current role in 2022. "That's one of the extraordinary things about him, is that he does not live in a security-person silo. He is the partner that everyone wants. Those are very unusual and important qualities in your campus security and welfare. It isn't just about having a police force or an emergency service. It's about integrating that into the life of the campus so you can create a place where people feel a sense of belonging. And that's what I think when you see him, when you see him walking and talking to people. They feel very reassured that he's the person in charge."

Southers jokes that he always seems to end up back at school, be it as a student or professor. He earned his master of public administration at University of Southern California in 1998 and has taught at nearly every juncture of his career.

"I think it's in the gene pool," says Southers of his gravitation toward the classroom. "My parents were educators. My wife is an educator. I was on the faculty when I was at the police academy, as well as a drill instructor. And I love teaching. And it just kind of grew. And after 9/11, I wrote a proposal for a Homeland Security and Public Policy course and it's being taught here now, 21 years later. I just love teaching. I love students. I am very at home on college campuses. And here I am."

L.A. Times news and culture critic Lorraine Ali's writing credits include the N.Y. Times and Rolling Stone.

"It isn't just about having a police force. It's about integrating that into the life of the campus so you can create a place where people feel a sense of belonging."

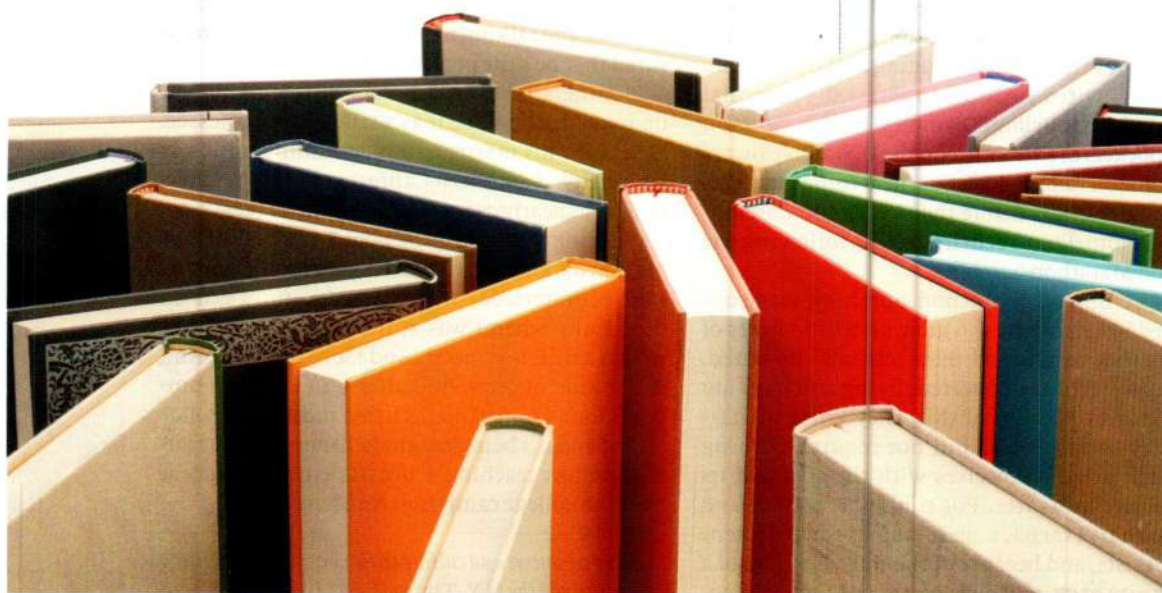
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BEYOND

THE
GATES

HISTORY

Land of Six Hundred Thousand Despots

The autobiography of an enslaved man who fled to Australia describes 1800s America

Literary critic Jonathan Schroeder '07 AM was scouring the archives researching the life of the famous 19th century African American writer and ex-slave Harriet Jacobs in 2016 when he stumbled across the most important find of his career: her brother's long-forgotten autobiography. As he began reading John Swanson Jacobs's words, Schroeder quickly understood he had found a revolutionary manifesto worthy of a place in the canon of American political thought.

"I immediately knew that this was a really, really important discovery—I was struck with an instant conviction," says Schroeder, who later earned a doctorate in English literature. "I realized it would be irresponsible to not switch to working on it right away."



BEYOND THE GATES

The resulting book *The United States Governed by Six Hundred Thousand Despot: A True Story of Slavery; A Rediscovered Narrative, with a Full Biography* (University of Chicago Press, 2024) gives Jacobs a renewed platform for his writing and traces the outlines of his life based on years of research from Schroeder.

Jacobs had escaped a life of slavery in North Carolina, succeeded as a gold miner in California, toured the U.S. alongside Frederick Douglass as an anti-slavery activist, and traversed the high seas as a sailor after the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 forced him to flee the country. He strolled into an Australian newspaper office in 1855 and convinced the white editors there to publish his life story. Out of the 10 million African descendants enslaved in America prior to the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, there are less than 100 known firsthand accounts of slavery.

"Since I cannot forget that I was a slave, I will not forget those that are slaves," Jacobs writes. Yet his writings failed to reach mass audiences outside Australia and Jacobs's later efforts to publish in Great Britain saw his biting political analysis edited down into a defanged personal narrative of escaping slavery.

Unlike prevailing accounts, Jacobs's uncensored writing, rediscovered by Schroeder, did not seek to drum up pity by focusing on the pain and suffering of the enslaved—a tactic pushed by white abolitionists who often filtered and controlled the publications of formerly enslaved African American writers, Schroeder explains. Instead, Jacobs zeroed in on the entrenched immorality of the U.S. political system, titling his memoir in Australia *The United States Governed by Six Hundred Thousand Despot*—a reference to the number of Americans who owned slaves.

As Jacobs writes: "If a man steals my horse, he is a horse-thief; but if he steals me from my mother, why he is a respectable slaveholder, a member of Congress, or president of the United States; while in fact he is as far beneath the horse-thief as I am above a horse."

The self-exiled Jacobs—who refers to the Constitution as "devil in sheepskin" and is no less scathing of the Declaration of Independence—"turns his life into an arc of refusal," Schroeder writes in the book's introduction, "and what he refuses is America itself."

For Schroeder (pictured here), tracking down details of the globe-trotting Jacobs's life was like jumping down "100 different rabbit holes constantly" while navigating the distortions of a historical record hardly focused on documenting his existence.

Even so, Schroeder gathered bits of treasure. An uncovered hostel ledger from a British maritime museum helped reveal that Jacobs worked on 35 different ships in 15 years. And a once-lost painting of an anonymous Black intellectual appears likely to be Jacobs, according to Schroeder's years of research. Schroeder is now pursuing a book-length biography of Jacobs, his sister, and their descendants, and is collaborating with Jacobs's living relatives to replace the single slab of stone that marks his obscure grave with a more expansive monument to honor his legacy.

Schroeder believes Jacobs's writing is as relevant as ever today for having never maintained any illusions about the nature of American society and what he considers the myth of its democratic promise.

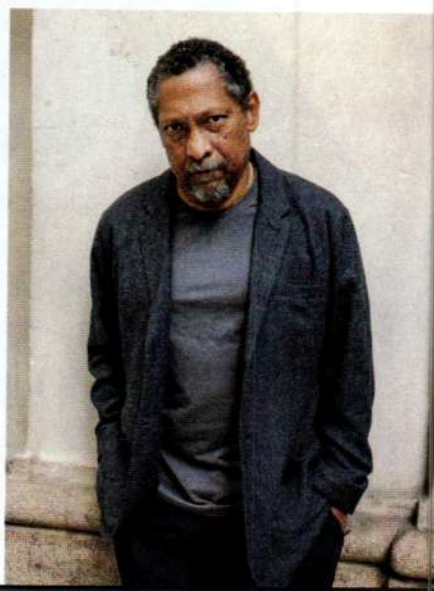
"If we want to look for where authoritarianism comes from in America, where massive disparities and asymmetries of power are created, maybe don't look for encroaching extremists coming from the outside," Schroeder says, "but rather look to how America was framed in the first place."

—JACK BROOK '19



FICTION

JAMES WINS A PULITZER Percival Everett '82 AM became part of a very select club (including Annie Proulx, Colson Whitehead, and John Updike) this spring when his novel *James*—a re-imagining of the *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* told from the perspective of Jim, Huck's travel companion who'd escaped slavery—won the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction just a few months after snagging the 2024 National Book Award for Fiction. Everett, an English professor at the University of Southern California, has written more than 20 books, including novels, poetry, and short stories; his fiction crosses genres and tends to avoid easy categorization, although



it often explores Black experiences in America (see our feature story, "Percival Everett Thinks You're Smart," Nov.–Dec. 2023). Early scenes in *James* closely follow Twain's novel, but as the two characters separate and the protagonist travels alone, the tone turns more serious. "This is Everett's most thrilling novel, but also his most soulful," wrote the *New York Times*. —PIPPA JACK

Game Changer

"Coach Ballgame" is putting the fun back in youth sports

James Lowe '05 is candid about the moment his life plan started to change. As a Brown baseball star with Big League dreams, he stood at the plate facing a young Justin Verlander (a future hall-of-famer, then pitching for Old Dominion). After ball one in the dirt, two blistering fastballs streaked by for strikes, one Lowe barely saw and the other he just managed to foul off. Then Verlander dropped the hammer: a high curveball that dropped off the edge of

in the social media feeds of sports parents nationwide. With his dulcet North Carolina drawl, an infectious goofy wit, and his signature fedora, Lowe spreads a gospel to parents and coaches alike: Youth sports are supposed to be fun and character-building. If they're not, you're doing it wrong.

As Lowe can attest, even the best youth players are highly unlikely to go pro. But that hasn't stopped coaches and parents from turning youth sports

to be servers of their community. We need to be life coaches first, and baseball coaches second."

Lowe says he learned the secret to great coaching at Brown—from beloved theater professor Lowry Marshall. "She taught me to listen, to get outside of my own head by giving and listening to others," Lowe says. "Same applies as a coach. You have to listen. My number one pillar is to build trust."

Lowe builds trust by getting to know every kid he coaches. He learns a little about their lives, their personalities, and their interests, and gives each of them a nickname to match. Once



More than anything, Lowe wants kids to love the game.

the Earth and into the zone for strike three. Lowe had just seen what Big League looks like. If he couldn't believe his eyes, his guts were harder to ignore.

"I didn't throw up, but I dry heaved," he said with a chuckle. "That was the moment I knew I'm destined to be a youth baseball coach."

Twenty years later, Lowe has become more than that. He's better known today as Coach Ballgame, a youth coaching guru, a major league baseball youth ambassador, and a persistent presence

into a win-at-all-costs pressure cooker that produces far more quitters than all-stars. That's the culture that Coach Ballgame is out to change.

At player and coaching clinics he holds around the country, Lowe stresses a fun-first philosophy. His ethos reflects some advice Lowe got from a friend and fellow coach early in his career: "None of these kids are going to make it to the majors," Lowe recalls his friend saying. "But they'll probably be mothers and fathers. They're all going

trust is built, the formula is simple: Reward hustle, teamwork, and character, sprinkle in a few fundamentals. The goal is to nurture kids' love of the game and keep them on the field long enough to learn all the life lessons baseball has to offer. Chief among them: how to deal with adversity. Every strikeout, every tough game on the mound, every dropped fly ball is an opportunity for growth. "Baseball isn't life or death," Lowe says, "but dealing with adversity—that could be." —KEVIN STACEY

What's So Bad About Tribalism?

Michael Morris '86 explores how cultural cues can be harnessed for good

Tribalism is often cited as the sinister force behind today's angry and divisive American politics. In a recent, typical essay, a Pennsylvania attorney named Gary Stout linked the term to conspiracy theories, white Christian nationalism, and other social ills "that should trouble all of us concerned about the future of American democracy."

But the work of Michael Morris '86—a veteran cultural psychologist who teaches at Columbia University and also consults with a variety of corporations, agencies, and political campaigns—has shown that while shared identity and values can breed conflict with other groups, tribalism is also a key

building block for a successful, collaborative society. He argues that understanding how cultural cues work is actually a path toward better understanding.

Morris's years of research into how cultural influences affect the ways that people think, communicate, and work together is a subject that can easily lend itself to academic jargon, but the Bethel, N.Y., native wanted

to reach a broader audience with his 2024 book *Tribal: How the Cultural Instincts That Divide Us Can Help Bring Us Together*, which aims to debunk some of the myths.

He worked closely with other Brown alums—his editor at Penguin, Niki Papadopoulos '04, and then with the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and writer Gareth Cook '91 as a writing coach—to make his key points through entertaining, relatable anecdotes.

Tribal's opening story, which tells how the Dutch soccer coach Guus Hiddink in 2002 upended the deeply embedded cultural traditions of South Korea's squad around deference and seniority to mold fierce competitors who reached the World Cup semifinals, drives home Morris's

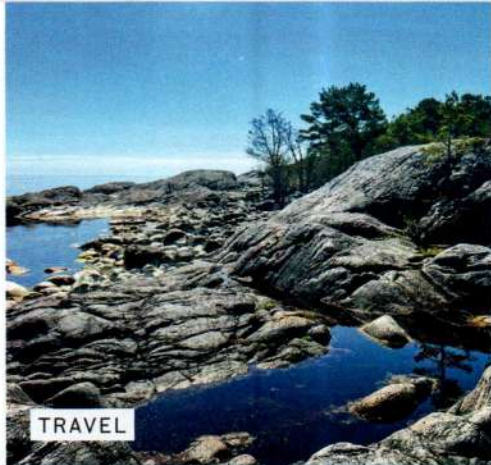
main point that while tribalism creates a set of traditions, "cultural patterns are mutable and malleable, and...with the right tools, we—like Hiddink—can harness them." Citing its role in collaboration and progress, he argues: "Tribal living is what truly made us human."

In many ways, the book is the pinnacle of a journey that took shape after Morris transferred to Brown in the mid-1980s hoping to take advantage of the University's Open Curriculum and merge a desire to read the Great Books with his keen interest in new areas of science such as artificial intelligence. His studies under interdisciplinary pioneers like the legendary professor George Morgan while completing a double major in cognitive science and comparative literature led him toward the cutting edge of cultural psychology as the field developed in the early 1990s.

Even as America begins 2025 in a state of political disarray and conflict, Morris points to examples from sports teams to the highly integrated U.S. military as positive examples of working through cultural conflicts and embracing diversity. "We can't let Twitter steer the culture," he says. "We need to know what the levers are and we need to be comfortable having an agenda about the culture that we want to build."

—WILL BUNCH '81





An Epic Island-Hopping Hike

Michael Lemmel '88 created a trail that connects 22 islands off Stockholm

Life can be hard among the 30,000 islands of the Stockholm Archipelago, where most populations don't have enough kids to run their own schools. Tourism generates a fair bit of money, but the season is short—until now, that is. Michael Lemmel '88 has been building the Stockholm Archipelago Trail, a one-of-a-kind hiking trail that opened last fall and made *National Geographic's* list of the 25 best places to travel this year. The 167-mile trail may be a “lifeline for the outer archipelago, for people to be able to reside there year-round,” says Lemmel. The trail relies on ferries to connect 21 islands—but many of those ferries are seasonal.

If the trail takes off, it could provide a strong business case for ferries and other services to stay open longer, for both tourists and islanders.

Lemmel played soccer and studied international commerce at Brown, then returned to his native Sweden to complete his military service. Recruited for a Wall Street job, he quit before his first day, heading for the South Pacific to work on a sailboat for a year. Then he moved to Chamonix, France, to work for Patagonia. “The whole feeling of Patagonia is that you can do anything,” he says. “Just do it, you know? I think it was a fantastic school for me.”

Since then, Lemmel has also competed as an adventure racer, founded a sports marketing company, and co-invented the sport of **swimrun**. Swimrun races consist of alternating between distance swimming and running, and they're now held all over the world.

Having a job where he's able to combine his love for nature with a business sense is exactly where he wants to be, Lemmel says.

“I was asked the other day [after vacation], ‘Oh do you feel bad going back to work?’” he says. “And I was like, ‘Are you kidding me? I love my work.’” —KASSONDRA CLOOS

“Swimrun” was born in the Stockholm Archipelago, Lemmel says.

BOOKS

Fresh Ink

REVIEWED BY EDWARD HARDY

Headshot by Rita Bullwinkel '11 (Viking)

This cleverly structured debut, longlisted for the 2024 Booker Prize, follows eight 18-and-under women boxers as they fight their way to the end of the two-day Daughters of America Cup. Set up like a tournament bracket, the prose hops in crisp bursts between the boxers' interior thoughts. This compelling novel is not really about winning and losing, but more about what the future will hold for each of these young women. Bullwinkel is also the author of the 2018 story collection *Belly Up*.

After the Floods: The Search for Resilience in Ellicott City by Ken Conca '82 (Oxford)

Ellicott City, a small mill town on the Patapsco River west of Baltimore, was ravaged by two “thousand-year” flash floods in just twenty-two months—first in 2016,

then again in 2018. Conca, a professor of environment, development, and health at American University, watched as, in the wake of the first flood, the debate over what to do, like deciding to develop a watershed master plan, ramped up after the second flood to include more extreme options, like drilling a huge runoff tunnel and tearing down the town's historic center. Here Conca chronicles the various sides of the town's emotional and political quest for solutions—a quest that other flood-prone communities are also grappling with.

Across a Bridge of Fire: An American Teen's Odyssey from the Burn Ward to the Edge of the Cambodian Killing Fields by Scott Allen '91 MD (Stillwater River Publications)

It's 1972 and Scott Allen is 10, out behind his house in Connecticut with his brother trying to light a campfire. To speed things up they decide to add some gasoline—and the can explodes. Allen is severely burned, but he recovers—self-conscious about his scars and often feeling like an outsider. Then at 17, after reading about the Cambodian refugee crisis, he buys a one-way ticket to Bangkok—without telling his parents—and finds work in the refugee camps. Allen returns to the U.S. a few months later for college, eventually becoming a doctor and doing human rights work. This memoir centers on the fire and his flight to Thailand and how those events rippled out in unexpected ways.



EDUCATION

Future Vision

Helping low-income kids see themselves as college material

It's 5 pm on a Tuesday and a dozen teenagers are sitting around a conference table talking and laughing. Banners from elite universities line the wall. The students spent the last two hours working on their Common Application, a form they can use to apply to hundreds of colleges around the country at once. This is one of many tools *College Visions*, a Rhode Island nonprofit, uses to help young people from low-income families,

mostly Black and Latino students, get into college.

Executive director Lamont Gordon '93 has devoted his entire career to college access work. After years in New York and Boston, he's back in Providence.

This work is personal for Gordon, who grew up in Washington, D.C., with a single father. "It was rough," he says. "Between first and eighth grades, I went to seven different schools because we had to move whenever we couldn't pay rent. We had to live in a car for a while." During this time of disruption, Gordon felt that his education was one thing he could control.

With encouragement from an academic enrichment program, Gordon was accepted to a private boarding school. "Milton Academy was pivotal," he says, "because it gave me stability for

the first time in my life and it gave me a rigorous college prep education and strong college guidance services."

When it came time to apply to colleges, he was struck by the diversity on Brown's campus and liked that the Brown community was politically active. "I appreciated all of that. I was very much committed to making a difference."

Gordon spent much of his time as an undergrad off campus at the Big Brothers program and eventually started his own mentoring program. "The Swearer Center was a big part of my experience at Brown," he says. "It provides lots of opportunities for students to engage in both scholarship and service."

Helping students from historically underrepresented groups (HUGs) get into college just got even more challenging—the consequences of the Supreme Court decision ending race-conscious admissions can already be seen. Data shows that over the past year, Brown admissions for HUGs dropped from 27 percent to 18 percent. In that same time, Black student enrollment dropped 40 percent.

However, the decision has changed college access work in at least one encouraging way. Gordon says universities that want to maintain diverse student bodies are now doing direct outreach in Black and Brown communities to diversify the applicant pool itself.

"I appreciate the fact that elite schools are trying to establish more partnerships with community based organizations," he says. "These schools need to send the message that they want these students. They need to say 'this is a place for you.'"

—RUSSELL MORSE

Photograph by David DelPoio

What a Long, Healing Trip

From law school to the growing field of psychedelic-assisted mental health therapy

For years both before and after she went to law school in 2006, Anne Tamar-Mattis '91.5 worked in jobs that put her close to people's depression, anxiety, and trauma. In the '90s, she ran a hotline for LGBTQ youth and volunteered for another for rape crisis. Post-law school, she started the first advocacy nonprofit for the intersex community and then ran an organization that helps people resolve divorce conflict out of court. "I intended for it to be my retirement job," she says.

But then she started hearing from her spouse of 27 years, Dr. Suegee Tamar-Mattis, the remarkable tales of healing that Suegee was witnessing as medical director for Liminal Medicine, a so-called "integrative healing center" north of San Francisco that offers psychotherapy assisted by the legal psychedelic ketamine. The drug has long been medically available as an anesthetic, but much-publicized recent research has also shown that it can have remarkable effects on depression and PTSD when administered in a therapeutic setting.

Suegee told, for example, of a patient who had long been addicted to methamphetamine who, during a ketamine-assisted psychotherapy (KAP) session, experienced meth as a longtime harmful lover he was breaking up with. He has since stayed off meth, she says. Anne, who says she's been treated all her life for depression with both antidepressants and thera-

py, did her own KAP sessions—and, she says, experienced a "deep revelation," a remarkable sort of inside-your-own-movie immersion, that allowed her to realize that her two adult children would be okay on their own and that she could let go of some of her long-held parental anxiety.

She was so struck by the power of KAP that she left her job, becoming the administrative director of Liminal. "I do everything that doesn't require a medical or therapy license," she says, "from answering phones to ordering things to being chief corporate counsel and compliance officer. It's helpful to have a lawyer around."

Services are not covered by insurance and cost hundreds to thousands of dollars depending on the package. Tamar-Mattis says that Liminal is committed to finding ways to offer its services to low-income individuals or communities who could benefit from it, such as some pro bono work and a fund people can donate to to subsidize sessions for non-wealthy clients.

She says it's rewarding to be at the center of a growing field that offers such promise. "This is really the first new hope that's come around in many decades in addressing trauma at its source. I see this as having the potential to intervene in cycles of family violence and community trauma," she says. —TIM MURPHY '91



FILM

SUNDANCE SUCCESS Andrew Ahn's *The Wedding Banquet*, a fresh retelling of the classic comedy of errors directed by Ang Lee, sold out three screenings at Sundance and Ahn '08 was a featured director at the festival's Film Church. "This is my second Sundance debut—the first one being *Spa Night*," Ahn shared. The original *Wedding Banquet* was one of the first Hollywood films to center Asian characters while telling the story of a queer couple. Ahn's adaptation, in theaters



April 18, adds a new dynamic: a lesbian couple and a gay couple who are close friends. "This film was meant to be a celebration of found family," Ahn says. There's much of himself embedded. "Though the wedding in the original film was Chinese, the wedding we designed was Korean. In a way, it almost felt like I got to have my Korean wedding," he adds. "It was important for me to make space for queer voices within deep-rooted cultural traditions." —NIDHI BASKAR '21, '26 MD

What a Long, Healing Trip



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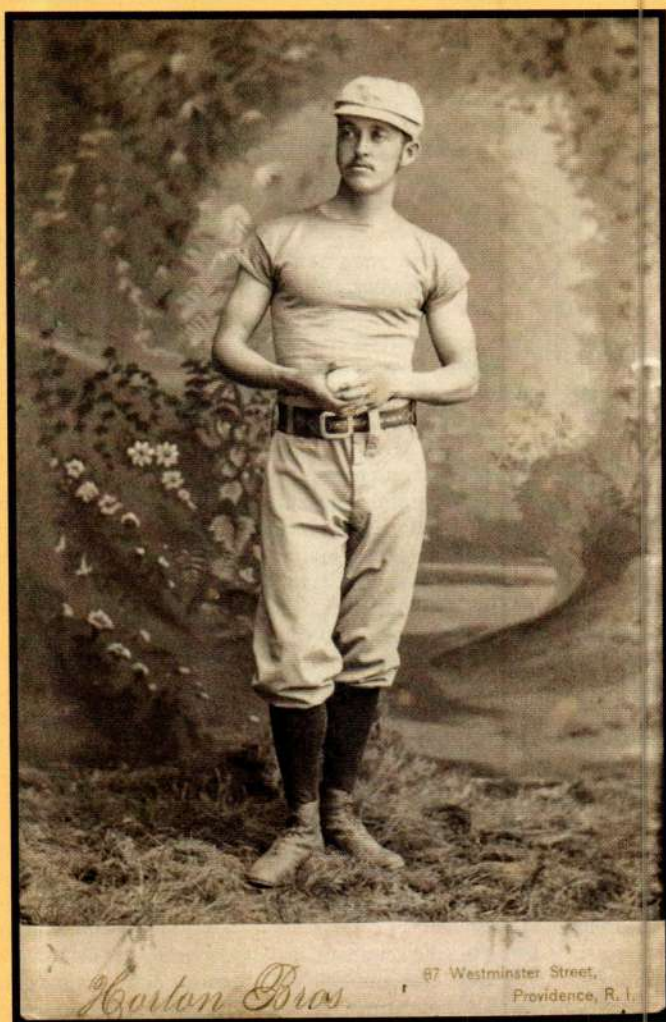
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THE CLASSES



BASEBALL'S PERFECT GAME It all started with a pair of pants. A Brown catcher in the 1870s needed a new pair and figured the \$10 fee the Worcester Worcesters offered him to play a game against Chicago's powerhouse team would help. He convinced his friend **J. Lee Richmond**, a pitcher from the class of 1880, to join him. What followed was a seven-inning shutout so clean, it got Richmond, a southpaw, signed on the spot by the Worcester club. The club joined the National League in 1880, and that's when Richmond got his perfect game. On June 12, 1880—reportedly on barely two hours of sleep after his Brown graduation bender—Richmond made history with a no-hit, no-run, no-man-on-base game against the Cleveland Blues: 27 batters up, 27 down. Later, Richmond traded curveballs for classrooms, becoming a physician, longtime science and math teacher, and eventually Dean of Men at the University of Toledo. —YUKTI V. AGARWAL '24.5

THE CLASSES

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49 Send your news to Class Secretary **Harold Gadon** at hgadon7333@aol.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

75TH REUNION

51 Send your news to Class President **Gene Weinberg** at awew1@cox.net; or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

52 Send your news to Class Secretary **Joe Munro** at munrojb@aol.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

54 Send your news to class secretaries **Margery Sharp** at 75 Harrington Ave., Shelburne, VT 05482, margexsharp@gmail.com; or **Marshall Cohen** at bigmarsh@verizon.net.

Marshall H. Cohen reports: "On behalf of Herb Cohen's classmates in the Brown and Pembroke class of 1954, we extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends. We will long remember Herb's loyalty to Brown and the Class of 1954 as class vice president, and his participation at our class reunions and mini-reunions in the United States and abroad. Herb's sense of humor and wise counsel, his friendship and good nature, will always be in our thoughts and conversations. (see Herb Cohen's obituary on pg. 67)."

Joan Bliss Wilson writes: "My husband Tom and I celebrated our 70th wedding anniversary surrounded by our family of 30 children and great-grandchildren. We live at Kendal at Hanover near the Dartmouth campus so we keep up with the many activities there. I'm always glad to hear what's going on at Brown."

55 Send your news to Class Secretary **Lucy Brubaker Tortolani** at etortolani@cox.net or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.
Suzanne Ross Zeckhausen (see **Tracey Ross Zeckhausen** '85).

70TH REUNION

56 Send your news to **Gretchen Wheelwright** at ggwphd@aol.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Roger Hale celebrated his 90th birthday with daughters **Jocelyn "Jocoy" Hale** '85, **Leslie Hale** '87, and **Nina Hale** '89.

57 Send your news directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.
Bud Feuchtwanger writes: "I am supposedly retired in an active retirement community on Long Island. I play golf and tennis, have a good social life, and invent things. I received two patents in the urology area (with no medical training) and one that encourages kids to brush their teeth (I was bad at that). Now I'm trying to sell the patents, which is no easy task."

58 Send your news to Class Secretary **Jill Hirst Scobie** at 15 Albert St., Waltham, Mass. 02453, jill.scobie@alumni.brown.edu; or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

59 Send your news to Class Secretary **Caryl-Ann Miller Nieforth** at 161 Everett Ave., Providence 02906, carylann189a@gmail.com; or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Dr. James Botwick writes: "Living in Hilton Head since 1986, I retired (for the second time!) in 2013. Since then, I've been busy volunteering in Hilton Head in several capacities: at our local free clinic Volunteers In Medicine; at our local Hilton Head Island airport as an airport ambassador guiding

visitors during the summer months; at our annual Heritage Golf Tournament (total of 21 years!); and at our Concours d'Elegance Classic Automobile Show for several years, to mention a few. In addition, I've been a poll worker for the past eight years. In January of 2023, I began hosting at a local upscale restaurant in Hilton Head because I just missed being out there with people. Hosting is so much fun for me, and I think I'd do it even if I didn't get paid for it! We (my partner Cheryl and I) have also continued our travels throughout the world, visiting six of the seven continents (still hoping to get to Australia). Next up is a train trip through Switzerland. After that, who knows! Who says octogenarians have to sit back and relax? Not this one!"

Jay Gordon published *The Diary of a City Priest* with Archway Publishing of Simon and Schuster. He writes: "It is the personal story of an Episcopal priest who worked in Newark, Harlem, and the Upper West Side of Manhattan during the turbulent times of the 1960s and 1970s, including his reflections on the social and theological changes at that time."

60 Send your news to Class Communications Chair **Jane Doane Anderson** at janeanderson1960@comcast.net or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

65TH REUNION

61 Send your news to Class Secretary **Beth Burwell Griffiths** at nhbeth773@gmail.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.
John "Jack" Crowley is looking for classmates from the Class of 1961. Contact him at jrcassoc@gmail.com.

63 Send your news to Class Secretary **Barbara Smith Langworthy** at blangworthy63@gmail.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

The Class of '63 Mini Reunion will be held in Providence September 17-19, 2025. If you would like to attend any of the individual events, please let **Mary Lou Clark Levine** know at mllevine1941@gmail.com. If you would like more information on the events, please contact **Joe Fisler** at jfisler1@gmail.com or **Barbara Smith Langworthy** at blangworthy63@gmail.com. With so many of our classmates living in the area, we hope to see many of you at some of the events planned. Some will also be extending their stay to attend the football game on Sept. 20.

Nancy Scull is still active on the board of Friends of Meali, which now has three schools in Tanzania. They have also sub-

"I am always a little disappointed when the BAM arrives and there are no entries from the Class of '67. Well, I guess I am as much at fault as the rest of you."

—Jim Falconer '67

dized more than 50 students for higher education, with many becoming professionals, including one doctor and several more on the way. She is deservedly proud of the organization she founded.

Charles Townsend writes from his Canaan, N.H., farmstead that he is currently busy as a member of several local nonprofit boards. This after he retired (in reverse order) after three terms in the N.H. House of Representatives, a career in hospital information analysis, and from the Peace Corps work he and his wife did.

64 Send your news to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Robert Buehler published a new children's book, *Sniffy Butcho and the Flip Flop Bird*, available on Amazon, Bookshop, and Barnes and Noble. Contact Robert at rwuebler@gmail.com.

65 Send your news to Class Co-Vice President for Communications **Terri Alschuler Hale** at vanhale43@gmail.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

60TH REUNION

66 Send your news to Class Cosecretary **Jaclynne Horn Laxon** at jlaxon@comcast.net or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

67 Send your news to class copresidents **Sharon Drager** at sbdrager@sbcglobal.net; **Keith Mosher** at keithnote@sbcglobal.net; or Class Treasurer **Dave Chichester** at davidchichester1@gmail.com.

Jim Falconer writes: "I am always a little disappointed when the BAM arrives and there are no entries from the Class of '67. Why? I would like to be reminded of my years at Brown, as well as be surprised and/or inspired by what my classmates are doing.

Well, I guess I am as much at fault as the rest of you. So, here it goes. I have been married to my Danish wife for over 54 years, which has brought me joy, two children, four grandchildren, and one step-grandchild—plus a large, warm, and welcoming Danish family. I practiced law for 25 years after graduating from Stanford Law School. After working for a large Seattle law firm, I formed a law firm with other Stanford classmates. In 1995, I started a private investment company focusing on urban real estate, the Alaska fishing industry, and various start-ups. Being partially retired, I now concentrate on community projects, including affordable workforce rental housing, independent journalism, and environmental restoration. You can check out some of the foregoing by checking *Seattle Times* Investigative Reporting and Climate Lab projects. Also, you can enjoy on your public radio station one of our favorite projects: BirdNote. If you want to see inspired middle schoolers, check out the Washington Native Plant Society YEER project. But, to see what keeps me going, check out the article on my Covid pandemic adventures in the April 18, 2021, edition of the *Wall Street Journal*. Yes, life has been good, but, of course, not without some sorrows along the way. So, let's hear from you."

68 Send your news to class cosecretaries **Kitty Walker Keane** at kittywalkerkeane@gmail.com; or **Marty Mueller** at martymueller1@aol.com; or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

70 Send your news to Class Vice President of Communications **Geri Williams** at geri3williams@comcast.net or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

55TH REUNION

71 Send your news to class co-vice presidents for communications **Darrell Davidson** at dddavids@iupui.edu, or **Harry L. Watson** at hwatson@email.unc.edu.

Alan M. Birnbaum writes: "I'm now a semi-retired neurologist. I avoid getting bored by serving on three boards—for my hospital, local blood center, and synagogue. I travel with my wife and read widely, sharing interesting articles with a number of friends. One such friend is my classmate and former *Brown Daily Herald* Editor-in-Chief **Terry Schwadron**, whose regular articles on national affairs read like the *New York Times*—not surprising, as he retired from that greatest of American newspapers as a senior editor."

72 Send your news to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

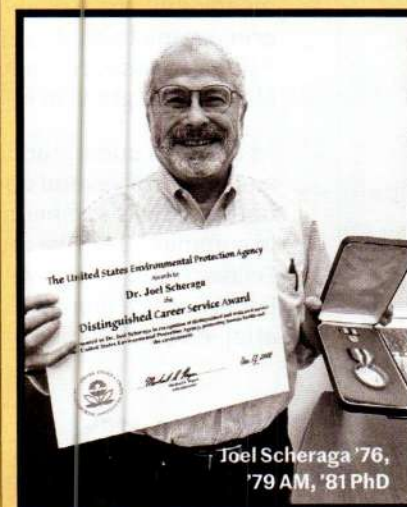
Samuel "Skip" Halpern is teaching a summer seminar at the Chautauqua Institution titled "Retired, Retiring Soon, or Mid-Career: Insights from Work Life that Deepen your Larger Life," based on his book *Wellsprings of Work: Surprising Sources of Meaning and Motivation in Work*. The book explores psychological and spiritual drivers of fulfillment that operate beneath the surface of wide-ranging careers and continue operating throughout life. The seminar is aimed at anyone nearing the end of a career or retired, wondering what it all amounted to and what comes next.

73 Send your news to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Steve Small writes: "Just when I thought I was out, they drag me back in.... After six years of retirement after teaching high school, All Elite Wrestling invited me back into show business as arena production manager for their weekly live broadcasts and monthly pay-per-view events. On March 3, 2024, I was alongside WWE Hall of Fame wrestler Sting (Steve Borden) as he won his sold-out retirement match in Greensboro, North Carolina. Similarly, I was with Sting for his final match for TNA Wrestling in Huntsville, Alabama, January 24, 2014, and his final match for World Championship Wrestling in Panama City, Florida, March 26, 2001."

74 Send your news to class co-vice presidents for communications **Scott Harris** at sharris@alumni.brown.edu or **Jim Morris** at jimmorris@alumni.brown.edu.

Carol Norris Brown writes: "The Brown Annual Fund Participation Award is given in recognition of the alumni class with the



STUDENTS AND ALUMNI DISCUSS FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCES
AT A LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES PANEL LED BY
SPRINT FELLOW ARIANA PALOMO

Accelerating Innovation in Undergraduate Education

By Elizabeth Kellner Suneby '80

Over the past decade, new and enhanced policies and programs have ensured all students have access to engaged learning experiences.

Ariana Palomo '25 is headed to England on a Rhodes Scholarship to pursue master's degrees in refugee and forced migration studies and in global governance and diplomacy.

"Brown provided me with financial access, mentors, and experiences to shape a meaningful undergraduate journey and prepare me to study at Oxford," explains Palomo, a first-generation American from Mexico who grew up in Texas.

As a Brown undergraduate, Palomo took advantage of several opportunities to build both her skills and her professional portfolio. In summer 2022, she received a SPRINT Fellowship to intern with Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson in Dallas; the summer after, Palomo studied Arabic in Oman through

a Critical Language Scholarship. During the first semester of her junior year, she received an Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award (UTRA) with Professor Nicole Gonzalez Van Cleve to research race and wrongful convictions in the criminal justice system. Building on these experiences, Palomo interned with the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C. during summer 2024. Her educational journey reflects Brown's enhanced approach to supporting the undergraduate experience through a variety of programming built over the past decade.

"To meet the needs of an evolving student body, we continually adapt Brown's distinctive student-centered approach to undergraduate education," explains Rashid Zia '01, dean of the College since 2018, who concludes his term June 30, 2025, to return to research and teaching.

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Brown has leveraged data and community feedback to launch or revise programs and policies to enrich the undergraduate experience for all — from providing financial support for the widest range of students, to expanding hands-on learning, research and teaching opportunities, to strengthening advising.

Expanding Experiential Learning

In 2021, the College boosted equitable access to research, teaching, and internship opportunities through an overhaul of its SPRINT/UTRA application and funding processes. Before the restructuring, about 300 undergraduates applied — mostly through word of mouth — and 200 UTRA awards were granted each summer. Since making all opportunities visible to all students, introducing need-based funding and expanding year-round support, participation has skyrocketed and now mirrors the composition of the student body. In 2024, SPRINT received 3,400 applications and made 1,300 awards. As of February 2025, the program received 5,000 applications.

"The innovations the College has made over the last decade better empower undergraduates to be the architects of their own education."

– Rashid Zia '01, Dean of the College

The College also introduced certificate programs in data fluency, engaged scholarship, entrepreneurship, intercultural competence, and migration studies. Certificates combine coursework and experiential learning to complement a student's concentration and equip them with 21st-century skills. In addition, Brown added concentrations in computational neuroscience, critical Native American and Indigenous studies, design engineering, and international and public affairs.

Leveling the Playing Field

About 12% of Brown undergraduates receive full scholarships, including room and board; and 50% of students on financial aid for tuition and fees also receive scholarships for living expenses. For many, the high cost of course

materials once necessitated undue tradeoffs, such as forgoing textbooks or enrollment in a class, reducing their meal plan, or working extra jobs.

To alleviate financial pressure, the College rolled out the Book/Course Material Support (BCMS) Program in 2020, providing complimentary textbooks to all students on aid through the Brown Bookstore. One student commented, "This program gave me the freedom to choose classes without concern of financial strain."

The College also launched Emergency GAP (E-GAP) Funds to support students facing unexpected financial burdens. One student's challenge often uncovers a systemic issue the College can address through policy change. For example, after students reached out to E-GAP for meal support during Senior Week when the dining halls were closed, the University modified the schedule to keep at least one hall open 364 days a year.

Strengthening Advising

In 2022, the College revitalized its partnership with the Meiklejohn Peer Advising Program for incoming students, pairing first-year students with a faculty or staff adviser and a trained student adviser to help navigate their transition to Brown. The College also built a dedicated study abroad advising team and began semester internship programs in Berlin, Sydney, and Washington, D.C.

To help students connect their college experience with the impact they want to make in the world, the College launched the Brown Center for Career Exploration in 2023 and the BrownConnect+ platform in 2024. Students can now access a growing team of dedicated career specialists and thousands of alumni and family mentors, industry liaisons, and potential employers to effectively explore a wider array of professional paths.

"The innovations the College has made over the last decade better empower undergraduates to be the architects of their own education," says Zia.

THE CLASSES

"It was wonderful to see the old gang again and reconnect, catch up, and reminisce about our younger days. Yes, we all look the same."

—Amy Lowrie Taivalkoski '81

highest percent participation in giving to the Annual Fund, and the Class of 1974 is the 2024 winner. Additionally, we had the highest class donor participation of 50th Reunions in recent history with 40 percent. What a wonderful way to mark our 50th Reunion with these recognitions for our class."

Bob Koch writes: "After launching my sports photography business a couple of months before Covid slammed the world, Entropy Sports Photography has developed some legit traction with numerous colleges and universities in the New York, New Jersey, and eastern Pennsylvania region. Happy to provide my services to anyone who might have a family student athlete in the area. Visit entropysportsphotography.com and contact me at bob.koch.2015@gmail.com."

75 Send your news to Class Communications Chair **Rhonda Port Walker** at rwalkerbhnj@verizon.net.

50TH REUNION

76 Send your news to Class Communications Chair **Kevin Rudden** at rudden@gmail.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Joel Scheraga '79 AM, '81 PhD writes: "I was honored on December 17, 2024, to receive a Distinguished Career Service Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (see pg. 51). It has been a privilege to work with so many talented and dedicated colleagues across the federal government for over 37 years to serve the American people and to protect human health and our precious environment." Contact Joel at joel.scheraga100@gmail.com.

77 Send your news to Class President **Kenneth Dill** at sixdills@hotmail.com; or Class Co-Vice President **Lucinda Flowers** at lucindaflowers910@gmail.com.

Richard Cohn writes: "In December I taught my last class at Yale, completing 45 years of teaching music theory to mostly undergraduate students. I will be spending most of the next two years as a visiting professor at the University of Sydney, where I've been visiting when I can for the last 12 years, incubating an incipient community of Australian music theory researchers. Additionally, the European Union Commission appointed me as the European Area Research Chair for a five-year term, awarding a 2.5 million Euro grant to run a music theory research group at the University of Coimbra in Portugal, so I'll be spending time there when I am able

and increasingly so in 2027. Later this year, MIT Press will be publishing my notes for an undergraduate non-majors course, *A Simple Mathematics of Musical Pitch and Time*." Contact Richard at richard.cohn@yale.edu.

Linda Jaivin's thirteenth book, *Bombard the Headquarters! The Cultural Revolution in China*, was launched in the UK in April 2025 by Old Street Publications, and in Australia in June by Black Inc. It follows up from her internationally published *The Shortest History of China* (named best book on China in 2021 by Five Books). She lives in Sydney, Australia, and can be contacted via her website: linda-jaivin.com.au.

78 Send your news to Class Vice President for Communications **Patsy Dimm** at patsydimm@msn.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

On Saturday, January 25, at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, **Valerie Mehlig Curry** was in a cohort of 18 commissioned by the Rt. Rev. Robert Wright as lay ministers. An educator by vocation, Valerie's lay ministry volunteer work is as a pastoral caregiver, Evangelist, Eucharistic minister, and visitor. Beyond her home faith-community of St. Edward's Episcopal Church and other churches, she carries her ministry into senior living homes, regular homes, funerals, and hospitals. Valerie supports the grieving, sick, and lonely: "all souls who desire a closer walk with God and connection with the divine as children of God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit." Not raised a Christian, Valerie was introduced to Jesus as an undergraduate via Brown's chaplaincy activities led by Chaplain Charles Baldwin.

In a blind competition judged by a panel consisting of choral directors from the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the New England Conservatory, a choir piece by **David Hahn** titled "I Can't Breathe" was selected for performance for the Voices of NEC concert series on March 6, 2025, in Boston's Jordan Hall. David's notes on the piece read: "On July 17, 2014, Eric Garner, who was selling loose cigarettes on the street in Staten Island, died after a police officer put him in a chokehold during the arrest. According to a video of the event, Mr. Garner cried out 'I can't breathe' eleven times before dying. The piece has numbers from 1 to 11 instead of rehearsal marks to indicate the number of times Mr. Garner repeated the phrase."

79 Send your news to class communications cochairs **Charles Jackson** at jacksons5redsox@gmail.com; or to **Fred Cooper** at fcooper@tollbrothers.com. **Robert Feder** writes: "I retired from the



From left: Fr. Fabio Sotelo, Valerie Mehlig Curry '78, Bishop Robert Wright, Lay Minister Cecilia Midzi Wiltz, Sr. Warden Jennifer Khaleel

IN THE NEWS

A distinguished scholar of international law, **Sarah H. Cleveland '87**, is the second woman to represent the United States and serve as a judge on the International Court of Justice. Her term is a nine-year commitment that began in February. She has worked for the United Nations Human Rights Committee and the European Commission for Democracy through Law, as well as in the U.S. government, where she served as counsel or on international law to the legal adviser of the State Department. She remains a member of the U.S. Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on International Law.

practice of divorce law and moved to New Haven/Yale to be near my son and his wife, who had my first grandson in March. I continue to pursue many hobbies that include pickleball, online courses, community service, classical music, dance, ballet, and movies."

Glenn Stewart published *Columbo Explains the Seventies: A TV Cop's Pop Culture Journey* in February with Bonaventure Press. The book explores how *Columbo's* TV popularity stems partly from the character sharing many values with his seventies audience, reflecting many socio-cultural issues of the era. Stewart examines how *Columbo* highlights class conflict, power struggles, feminism, race relations, sex, technology, media, psychology, politics, and violence, revealing the ways this TV cop is a product of his particular time.

80 Send your news to class cosecretaries **Mary Minow** at maryslibr@gmail.com and **Gina Brelsford** at brelsford@alumni.brown.edu.

45TH REUNION

81 Send your news to Class Co-Vice President for Communications **Suzanne Curley** at suzo329@gmail.com; Class Co-Vice President **Charles Taylor** at ctaylor@htgroup.com; or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Amy Lowrie Taivalkoski writes: "A spontaneous mini-reunion of the freshman of Everett Hall in West Quad class of '81 took place in January. Living in Boise now, I don't get to the East Coast often so while I was visiting **Jacki Cullen Howitt** in Manhattan, we decided to see if others would like to spend a casual afternoon together. Happily we got a great turnout that included **Leo Alventosa**, **Tom Apple**, **Peter Dain**, **Marlene DeMaio**, **Lisa DeRensis**, **Nigel Foster**, **Sue Howitt '80**, **Toshio Nakamura '83 ScM**, '87 PhD, **Chris Pappo**, **Grant Price '82 MD** and **Frances Wu**. Joining on Zoom for a bit were **Jeff Alperin** and **Beth Burlingame**. It was wonderful to see the old gang again and reconnect, catch up, and reminisce about our younger days. Yes, we all look the same." Contact Amy at amy.taivalkoski@gmail.com.

Lauren Wolk, *New York Times* bestseller and Newbery Honor-winning author of *Wolf Hollow*, continues her legacy of writing

phenomenal children's fiction in her highly anticipated middle grade novel *Candle Island*, where her character Lucretia comes to terms with the loss of her father on a remote Maine island and explores the restorative power of art. Lauren's award-winning work has long been praised by media and educators alike.

82 Send your news to Class Vice President for Communications **Liza Boyajian** at lizaboyajian@gmail.com; Class Copresident **Roger Baumgarten** at rogerbaum@comcast.net; or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

83 Send your news to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu. **Diego Garces** writes: "After years of working in the U.S., Switzerland, Germany, and Russia, I'm back in the States and overjoyed that my daughter **Francesca** will be joining Brown's Class of '29. I'll bring her to campus in August 2025—excited to relive old memories in a new chapter."

Terry Horton is working at Indivior as vice president of patient insights and advocacy. Terry partners with other patient advocacy groups to ensure access to quality addiction care and best practices to foster recovery.

Chiyo Imai Rowe writes: "In November,



Tuyet Nguyen and I spent two weeks exploring Japan together. I introduced her to around 20 of my relatives and we visited many of my favorite spots, as well as a few new ones. We even found ourselves stranded at a train station for several hours waiting for the winds of a typhoon to subside. Along the way, we enjoyed plenty of tofu and delicious Asian pears from my cousin's orchard. As we traveled, Tuyet shared stories from her childhood in Vietnam and her experiences as a refugee after leaving the country. Although we decided on this trip impulsively in October, the idea of visiting Japan together had been in the works since I returned from my year as an exchange student at Keio University—44 years ago."



From left: **Tom Apple '81**; **Chris Pappo '81**; **Marlene DeMaio '81**; **Leo Alventosa '81**; **Frances Wu '81**; **Grant Price '82 MD**; **Sue Howitt '80**; **Toshio Nakamura '81**, '83 ScM, '87 PhD; **Lisa DeRensis '81**; **Peter Dain '81**; **Jacki Cullen Howitt '81**; **Amy Lowrie Taivalkoski '81**

THE CLASSIFIEDS

For inquiries and information, contact Advertising Director Kerry Lachmann via email at BAMads@brown.edu or by leaving a voicemail at (401) 863-1898.

HELP WANTED

BAM SEEKS PROOFREADER. Are you a bit of a savant? Do you know stuff—zip codes, historical dates, weirdly spelled place names, etc.—and, even more importantly, feel driven to look stuff up so you know exactly what's accurate? Are you also a grammar guru, maybe a bit of a detail diva? BAM's wonderfully exacting proofreader is getting ready to retire soonish, and we need a new victim to assume this thankless and underpaid role. Bonus: a sneak peek at all BAM content before publication. Please email alumni_magazine@brown.edu [note underscore between "alumni" and "magazine"]

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84 Send your news to Class Communications Chair **Joan Winter Skeritt** at joan_skeritt@alumni.brown.edu.

Dr. **Allen B. White** retired from his research meteorology position with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in mid-January. He spent his career studying boundary-layer turbulence, air-pollution meteorology, Pacific winter storms (including atmospheric rivers), and precipitation microphysics. He ended his

career serving as the chief of the data, instrumentation, and field campaigns division in the NOAA physical sciences laboratory in Boulder, Colo. In retirement, he plans to travel with his wife, Pam, both near and abroad. Contact Allen at allenbwhite63@gmail.com.

85 Send your news to class communications cochairs **Ellen Taschioglou Parsons** at ellenparsons@gmail.com; or **Daniel Sterman** at daniel.sterman@gmail.com.

Jocelyn "Jocey" Hale (see **Roger Hale '56**).

Tracey Zeckhausen writes: "My mom, **Suzanne Ross Zeckhausen '55**, moved from her longtime home in Wilbraham, Massachusetts, to Chapel Hill Senior Living in Cumberland, Rhode Island, two years ago to be closer to me, her grandchildren, and her great-grandchild. Despite some minor chronic health issues, she is doing quite well. At the time of this writing, she is hoping to attend some portion of her reunion. I am celebrating my 40th and she, her 70th." Contact Suzanne at suzannezeck@gmail.com.

40TH REUNION

86 Send your news to Class Communications Chair **Cecilia Francesca Pineda** at ceciliafpineda@gmail.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Chuck Han writes: "On the summer solstice of this leap year, I exchanged vows with Mutsuko Adachi at our commitment ceremony at the beautiful Bernardus Lodge & Spa in Carmel Valley, California. In attendance were fellow '86ers **Wendy Chin**, **Domenic Di Meo**, **David Geffen**, and **John Mannato** (my best man when I married my late wife **Susan Kobayashi '87** in 1988). Our children Mina Han, Dylan Han, and **Lauren Adachi '22** led the procession. Susan and I met Mutsuko in 1990 as she was a bridesmaid for her sister-



From left: Dom Di Meo '86, Marisa Di Meo, Mutsuko Adachi, Chuck Han '86, John Mannato '86

THE CLASSES

"Though our paths crossed only occasionally over the decades, I like to jokingly take full credit for Lauren's matriculation."

—Chuck Han '86

in-law, Wendy. Though our paths crossed only occasionally over the decades, I like to jokingly take full credit for Lauren's matriculation as I insisted that Lauren practice her alumni interview with me, and we all know how important those were! In all seriousness, I think the example and encouragement of Susan and Wendy, two women electrical engineering alums, influenced Lauren's decision to attend Brown and concentrate in EE, where she excelled beyond all of us. In an unbelievable twist, Lauren's West Quad Jameson room was across the hall from the room that **Marco Garcia** and I shared, the same one that David and **Andrew Moran** shared! At the end of Susan's life, she encouraged Mutsuko, also widowed, to get together with a widower, and here we are. As my life has come full circle, I feel immense gratitude to Brown as it has shaped the most important parts of my life: my past, present, and future Brown family."

87 Send your news to Class President **Pamela D. Gerrol** at classof1987@alumni.brown.edu or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.
Leslie Hale (see **Roger Hale '56**).

Joan Barzilay Freund writes: "I wanted to share news of my latest book, *Defining Style: The Book of Interior Design*, which examines 25 interior design styles through the eyes of 150 of the world's top designers and architects. The project was spearheaded by **Keith Fox**, Phaidon's longtime CEO, and includes projects by **Nathalie Farman-Farma '90**, **Natalia Miyar '97**, **Tal Schori '03**, and **Rustam-Marc Mehta '03**. The book was published on March 6, 2025, by Phaidon."

88 Send your news to Class Vice President for Communications **Vinny Egizi** at vinnymass@yahoo.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Suzanne Cable was awarded the Bob Marshall Award for Individual Champion of Wilderness Stewardship 2024 by the

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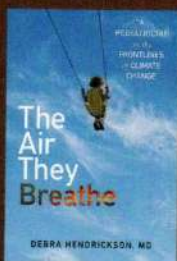
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Fact, Fiction & Verse / Books by Brown Authors



The Air They Breathe: A Pediatrician on the Front Lines of Climate Change

Debra Hendrickson '83

A pediatrician explains how a warming world impacts children's health. A soul-stirring reminder of our moral responsibility to those we love most. debrahendrickson.com



Systems from Hell: Problem Definition and the Literary Portrayal of Failure in Our Public Policy and Social Institutions

David A. Rochefort, '76 AM, '79 AM, '83 PhD

Examines how contemporary American novels document and define social problems, helping to set the political agenda by sounding the call for systemic reform in health policy and other domains. bit.ly/4i1fiW



AND: The Tiny Word That Can Radically Transform Your Life

Erica Bree Rosenblum '96

What do all great leaders, lovers, teachers, and trailblazers have in common? They know how to transform constraint into creativity. You can too. With clarity and depth, "AND" offers an unexpected life philosophy and a roadmap to true possibility. breerose.com



Columbo Explains the Seventies

Glenn Stewart '79

Television's *Columbo* was a pop culture time capsule of the '70s. How was this TV cop a product of his time? What do those original '70s episodes explain about class conflict, feminism, race relations, sex, technology, media, psychology, politics, and violence? amazon.com; barnesandnoble.com



Love Across Difference: Mixed Marriage in Lebanon

Lara Deeb '95

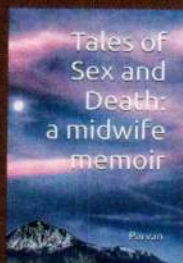
Through poignant stories of Lebanese couples who fought to marry across religious lines, *Love Across Difference* challenges readers to rethink categories of difference and imagine possibilities for social change. bit.ly/4jeNmJr



Love Can't Wait by Muskie Fields

Denise Forest '82

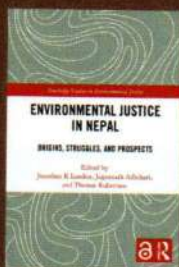
Spanning the gamut from love to mystical experiences, in the spirit of Rumi, Muskie tells a love story. Reminiscent of sages from Buddhism, Sufism & Christianity, influenced by love and benefiting our social world together, Fields inspires the heart in wonder and delight. streamofwisdompress.com



Tales of Sex and Death: A Midwife Memoir

Julie Law '05, pen name Parvan

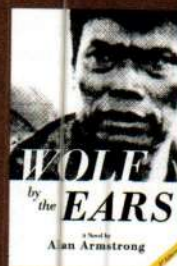
From childhood on a farm in Rhode Island to global adventures in healing and spirituality amidst encounters with birth and death, this 21st century midwifery memoir begins and ends at Brown University! Contact julieannalaw@gmail.com. a.co/d/9Jp8Bjk



Environmental Justice in Nepal: Origins, Struggles and Prospects

Jonathan K London, '91

This edited volume provides a holistic compilation of the diverse range of emerging scholarship in critical environmental justice studies in the dynamic and complex context of Nepal. bit.ly/3Ge8Gkf



Wolf by the Ears

Alan Armstrong '60

Acclaimed by participants, historians, and academicians, *Wolf* tells the true-life, inside story of America's abandonment of Cambodia 50 years ago, written in novel form. Question: Is Ukraine "Déjà-vu all over again?" bit.ly/42htsV

THE CLASSES

USDA Forest Service, recognizing her 30-plus years of service to wilderness preservation and management.

89 Send your news to Class President **Michael Tate** at ivyleague-boy1989@yahoo.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.
Nina Hale (see **Roger Hale** '56).

90 Send your news to Class President **Jonathan Steinberg** at jonathan.steinberg.90@alumni.brown.edu; or Class Communications Chair **Courtney Wilson** at courtneywilson@yahoo.com.
Adam Komisarof writes: "I am currently president of the Brown University Club of Japan. I read the BAM religiously and absolutely love it. Thank you so much for your fine work. In February 2025, I published *The SAGE Handbook of Intercultural Communication*."

35TH REUNION

91 Send your news to Class Communications Cochair **Gayle Weiswasser** at gweiswasser@gmail.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Sharon Loferski Engler writes: "I hope everyone is doing well. My husband Bill and I have five children, two labrador retrievers, one calico kitty, and six chickens! We live on the island of Martha's Vineyard and are doing well. Lots of exciting things happening in our family. Our daughter Rose, age 25, graduated from Brown in 2022. She went on to the University of Utah to earn her master's in business creation and is now attending Warren Alpert Medical School. She is learning and loving every moment of it all. Our son Owen, 23 years old, graduated from Boston College in 2023 and is now attending his second year at Northeastern School of Law. He has helped to bring Lawyer for a Day to Dukes County courthouses, including at Martha's Vineyard. He will be working at Kirkland & Ellis and is very excited about the law and all that he is learning. Jack, 18 years old, is a senior at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School and excited to play in his senior basketball game. He will be attending college in the fall, just not sure where yet (Brown, perhaps??). Lucy, 16 years old, is a sophomore in high school and is severely disabled. She has cerebral palsy and cannot walk, talk, or

"Critiques of young women's clothing and selfies are misguided, even harmful."

—**Leora Tanenbaum** '91

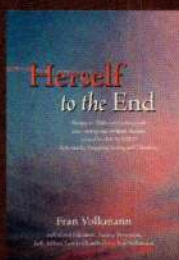
feed herself. She is happy and a ball of pure love. Our oldest son, August, 26 years old, passed away in January. We are learning how to understand that he is still here with us, just in a different way. Living on Martha's Vineyard is so beautiful. I am a special education teacher on the island. I would love to hear from fellow Brunonians. Come visit the island and I would love to see you!"

Azadeh Ghotbi exhibited her work in London at the Marie Jose Gallery between January 29 and March 15.

Leora Tanenbaum launched her new book *Sexy Selfie Nation: Standing Up for Yourself in Today's Toxic, Sexist Culture* in May. At the time of this submission, Leora was preparing to moderate a panel discussion on "Changing the Narrative Around Sexy Selfies," featuring several members of the Brown community, at the Pembroke Center Commencement Forum. Leora wrote *Sexy Selfie Nation* after fielding panicked messages from parents about their daughters' "inappropriate" clothes and selfies. She shows that critiques of young women's clothing and selfies are misguided, even harmful. Rather, the problem we all should be concerned about is the toxic, sexist conditions that shape young women's daily lives. Leora writes she is also excited to serve on the planning committee for the November 7-9 campus event celebrating 130 years of Jews at Brown and looks forward to seeing alums there.

92 Send your news to Class Vice President for Communications **Jeffrey Wolfson** at jawolfson@comcast.net or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

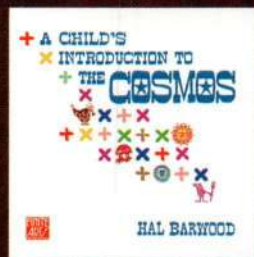
94 Send your news to Vice President for Communications **Erica Wines** at ericajwines@gmail.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.



Herself to the End

Fran Volkmann, '59 AM, '61 PhD

Facing an Alzheimer's diagnosis, a courageous woman chooses to end her life by voluntarily stopping eating and drinking (VSED). Her medical, familial, and social communities support her each step of the way. broadsidebooks.com; bit.ly/3Gxf6Le



A Child's Introduction to the Cosmos

Hal Barwood '63

Before we grow up and have to face facts, our imaginations tell their own tales. Here's an imaginary world for very early readers, free of annoying facts, and fully explained in just 200 splendiferous words. Available in paperback via my website: finitearts.com



We're Put Here to Love:

A Memoir with Poems

Janet W. Bickel, '76 AM

This nationally recognized coach and leader in medical education tells the backstory of her alcoholism, her professional start at Brown, and how she learned to befriend herself. janetbickel.com

IN THE NEWS

After the death of his father, Prince Karim Al-Hussaini, Aga Khan IV, Prince **Rahim Al-Hussaini** '95 was appointed Aga Khan V, the 50th hereditary imam of the Ismaili Muslims. The late Aga Khan helped found a charity responsible for running hundreds of hospitals and educational and cultural projects, mainly in the developing world. Prince Rahim is the eldest son of the former Aga Khan and has served on the boards of various agencies within the Aga Khan Development Network.

Circle of Support

When young parents Nate Poole '04 and Tamara Lam-Plattes '04 found their lives upended by a serious injury, Brown friends rallied round. BY IVY SCOTT '21.5

The number four has always held great significance for Nate Poole '04 and Tamara Lam-Plattes '04: the pair met mere weeks before

graduation on April 4, 2004.

They were married ten years to the day later, in 2014. And while they had always envisioned celebrating the 20-year mark at their campus reunion with the same friends who first introduced them, the couple's anniversary in April 2024 took a painful turn toward the unexpected.

One month earlier, on March 4, Nate was playing softball with some parents from his kids' school in San Francisco when he leapt up to catch a fly ball whizzing toward a fence in the outfield — “a play I’ve done a million times,” the former Brown football quarterback says.

But as Nate hit the fence mid-air, he felt a

strange sensation above his shoulders, and his vision went dark. When he regained consciousness, he was lying on the ground with a fractured C3 vertebra, paralyzed from the neck down.

“It was a Monday night. I had picked up my kids, picked up my wife from work, we had dinner, and just said goodbye to everybody,” Nate said through tears at Spaulding Rehabilitation Center in Cambridge last fall, as Tamara reached for tissues to dry his eyes. “And then, in an instant, everything changed.”

What followed were four “dicey” weeks in an intensive care unit in San Francisco before Nate was airlifted to Craig Rehabilitation Center in Denver with Tamara by his side, the day before their 10th wedding anniversary.

The next day, April 4, an incredulous nurse arrived at Nate’s door to let the couple know they already had a package waiting for them.

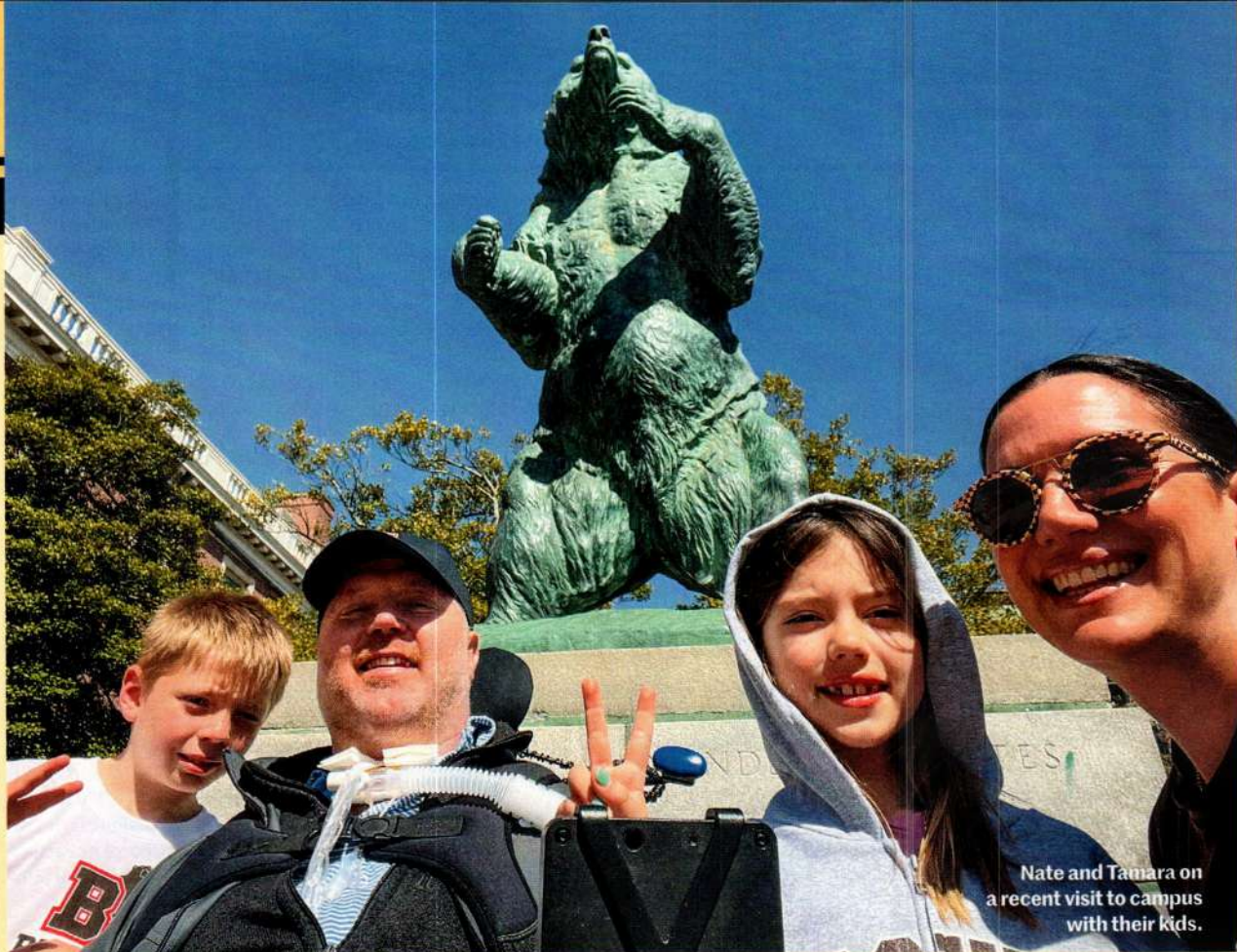
“We were like, what in the world?” Nate said in awe. “And it was from our wedding party”—“a lot of Brown people,” Tamara interjected—“and they had put together such an amazing gift for us: a big blanket with a collage of all our photos, and then a montage of videos and pictures from our wedding day, and of each of them,” Nate continued, his eyes again welling with

“Very early on, we just all kind of saw each other as family. And so we make those same efforts that you’d make for your family.”

tears. “All that support. It was amazing. I was waterworks that day, it was crazy.”

That overflow of love and support was neither the first nor the last the couple would receive from the Brown community in the weeks and months after the accident. Their friendships from campus clubs, teams, and Greek life are now stronger than ever, they say, evidenced by the swift and enduring response from a friend group forged over two decades ago that has only continued to grow.

“There’s this massive group of people — including, of course, lots of Brown folks — who just adore them,” says Bridget Stokes-Manhanga ’04, who set the pair up at a party two decades ago, after which their friend groups quickly merged. Friends married other friends, became bridesmaids and groomsmen in each other’s weddings, and kept the group chats alive with plenty



Nate and Tamara on a recent visit to campus with their kids.

of texts and FaceTimes, even as people started families or moved farther apart.

"Very early on, we just all kind of saw each other as family," Bridget adds. "And so we make those same efforts that you'd make for your family."

It was only natural, then, for those same friends to flock to Nate and Tamara after the accident, offering their encouragement and assistance at every turn. One cluster of friends quickly launched an online fundraiser. Another threw an event at Fish Co., the Providence bar and restaurant where the pair first met. Two other friends ran a marathon together, with funds to be donated to Nate's recovery. The current coach of Brown's football team even sent a care package with handwritten letters from every player and a helmet for the couple's 8-year-old son.

As Nate continues his rehabilitation at the Spaulding

Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the tide of care and support has not ebbed. Every gesture has felt deeply meaningful, Tamara says, but perhaps none more than the day she and their two children moved into their new home in Massachusetts, close to Tamara's family and renovated to accommodate Nate's wheelchair. Three massive waterproof containers filled with all the family's belongings had been sitting in the yard for weeks, waiting to be unpacked.

"It was super daunting... I was like, I don't know how I'm gonna do this," she recalls. "But my best friend lives in Boston, and I was like, can you just see if anybody's available?"

By the time Tamara pulled up to the house, roughly a dozen of Nate's former teammates and their friends were waiting out front.

"I started crying immediately," she says. "Some of them I probably hadn't seen in over

10 years, and they were all just standing there, ready to work. And it was like nothing — they gave me big hugs, said 'Let's do this,' and in under two hours, everything was in the house."

Jermaine Griffin '05, a former Brown linebacker and close friend of the couple, says that as Nate continues to heal, their circle of friends is committed to supporting him as his needs evolve, and to helping him establish a new normal at every step of the way — whether his recovery is on its fourth month, fourth year, or fourth decade.

"Brown is just a special place, and Nate and Tamara are special people," he says. "It's easy to rally around and want to help them, and we will continue to do that through this entire process as much as we can."

In the months since the accident, Nate has already made significant progress. In his hospital bed at Spaulding in September, he gingerly

waved one arm and described sensation slowly returning to his right leg. By the following spring, he was fully settled into the family's new home and regularly attending physical therapy, with the goal of getting off his ventilator and breathing on his own this summer. He's found a go-to barber shop, and in the family's new BRV ("big red van") he can attend his kids' extracurriculars and even get to a Bruins' game with Tamara for their 21st wedding anniversary. And as their new life begins to take shape, the couple remain staunchly optimistic that, with the help of great doctors and good friends, recovery is possible.

"It means a lot, being one step closer," Nate says. "And everybody doing all sorts of little things, all the support they've shown since the injury... it just adds up. We've been completely overwhelmed by what these guys have done for us."

THE CLASSES

"I want to help shift the conversation around motherhood to be honest, uplifting, and fun."

—Daniela Saltzman '07

95 Send your news to class communications cochairs **Erin Mancuso Hobey** at ehobey@gmail.com; or **Atabey Sanchez-Haiman** at atabeysh@gmail.com; or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Sanjay Magavi writes: "I'd like to let folks know that my wife, **Zeyneb Magavi**, received an honorable mention as one of *Boston Globe's* Bostonians of the Year for her environmental work. Her organization, HEET, has championed networked geothermal systems to provide effective, affordable heating and cooling without the use of fossil fuels. They convinced Eversource, a New England utility, to build a neighborhood-wide pilot project replacing gas lines with networked geothermal!" Contact Sanjay at sanjay.magavi@alumni.brown.edu.

On February 5, the *Healthcare Technology Report* published its Top 50 Women Leaders in Healthcare Technology of 2024. The list included Atropos Health's **Joy Somogyi**, senior vice president, marketing. This award recognizes Joy's achievements in leading marketing and communications efforts for Atropos Health since joining the team in 2023. Acknowledged for her steady leadership and expertise in the healthcare technology space, Joy's work at Atropos Health is focused on building a community devoted to making evidence the basis for decision making in medicine.

30TH REUNION

96 Send your news to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu. **Erica Bree Rosenblum**, professor of global change biology at UC Berkeley, released a book and companion journal on January 8 titled *AND: The Tiny Word That Can Radically Transform Your Life* (see pg. 58).

IN THE NEWS OpenAI hired **Leah F. Belsky** '02 as its first general manager of education. In this role, she will work to bring the artificial intelligence startup's products to more schools, boost its engagement with teachers and students, and work with OpenAI's own teams on their partnerships with the academic community, as reported in *Bloomberg*. She was formerly chief revenue officer at Coursera.

IN THE NEWS Numa, the Oakland-based AI startup founded in 2017 by Steven Ginn, **Joel Grossman** '99, Tasso Roumeliotis, and Andy Ruff, secured \$32 million in a Series B funding round, positioning itself as a transformative force for car dealerships across North America. The company initially focused on a broader AI product aimed at conversational commerce. However, the team recognized the immense potential to specialize in the automotive vertical, prompting a pivot to provide highly targeted automation tools for car dealerships.

97 Send your news to Class Co-Vice President for Communications **Brooke Davis Nalle** at bnalle@gmail.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Natalia Miyar (see *Joan Barzilay Freund* '87).

Jordan Roter is a published novelist, professional screenwriter, TV writer, and producer living in Los Angeles. Her new novel, *Moms Like Us*, was published by Little A in May 2025.

98 Send your news to Class Vice President for Communications **Michael Mancuso** at mikemancuso1323@yahoo.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu..

99 Send your news to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

In Spring 2026, Dutton/Penguin will publish **Susie Kramer Nadler's** debut young adult novel, *Lies We Tell About the Stars*, in which 17-year-old Celeste searches for her best friend in the aftermath of a catastrophic San Francisco earthquake. Celeste becomes increasingly convinced that he's still alive but has chosen to disappear. Meanwhile, the rest of the nation distracts itself from the disaster by obsessing over the first human mission to Mars. Susie sold the novel in a two-book deal, so she'll also be publishing another YA book! She works as a school librarian and lives in San Francisco with **Saul Nadler** and their teenage twins.

Jonathan (Jon) Persky of the Boston office was named a partner at Constangy effective Jan. 1, 2025. Jon represents clients in federal and state courts, arbitration, and administrative agencies. Before joining Constangy as senior counsel in 2018, Jon was an associate at Boston-based firms focused on business litigation and employment law. Jon attended the UConn School of Law, where he graduated with highest honors in 2006. He is admitted to practice in the state and federal courts of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. In 2023, Jon's dedication and skill were recognized when he was named one of Thomson Reuters's "Stand-Out Law-

yers," an honor given to professionals making a significant impact in their field.

00 Send your news to Class Communications Cochair **Naomi Ture** at naomiture@gmail.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

25TH REUNION

01 Send your news to class co-vice presidents for communication **Jennifer Kraemer Gewertz** at jenkraem@yahoo.com; **Veronica Rotelli Vacca** at atvrvacca@gmail.com; or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Paul Grellong writes: "After successful productions at the Warehouse Theatre in Greenville, South Carolina, Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles, and Menier Chocolate Factory in London, my play *Power of Sail* has been published by Broadway Play Publishing."

02 Send your news to Copresident **Waciuma Wanjohi** at waciuma@gmail.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Andrew Frank writes: "Accelerain, a company that I founded in 2016, was recognized as a 5x winner of the Philadelphia100, which ranks the top 100 fastest growing companies, and was subsequently inducted into the Philadelphia100 Business Hall of Fame. Accelerain serves B2B clients in four conti-



Jenna Sciuto '06

nents and was recognized for our innovation by Goldman Sachs.” Contact Andrew at andrew_frank@alumni.brown.edu.

03 Send your news to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.
Rustam-Marc Mehta (see **Joan Barzilay Freund** '87).
Tal Schori (see **Joan Barzilay Freund** '87).

04 Send your news to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.
Ayelet Amittay is a perinatal psychiatric nurse practitioner in Eugene, Ore. Her book of poems, *The Eating Knife*, was published by Fernwood Press in March. She is also a winner of the 2024 three-day International Chapbook Competition for her chapbook *Therapy Room*. You can find her at www.ayeletpoet.com or contact her at aamittay@gmail.com.

Luke W. Meier was elevated to copractice group leader, government contracts, at Blank Rome LLP on January 1.

Lauren E. Oakes published *Treekeepers: The Race for a Forested Future* with Basic Books in November. Lauren writes: “For many, planting a tree has become a catchall way to do something good for the planet. But to what extent can trees really save us, and how?” In *Treekeepers*, Lauren tackles these questions by taking readers on a poetic and practical journey through the science behind and legitimacy of the global reforestation movement. Lauren also welcomed a baby girl, Arden (named after the Forest of Arden in England), into her family this year. Contact Lauren at leoakes@gmail.com.

05 Send your news to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.
Kierstan Carlson was elevated to vice practice group leader of maritime at Blank Rome LLP on January 1.

20TH REUNION

06 Send your news to Class Co-Vice President for Communications **Jessica Pesce** at jessica.pesce@gmail.com or directly to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Anne Duggan joined TIFF Investment Management, an outsourced chief investment office focused on nonprofits. She was welcomed by two fellow TIFF Brunonians, **Brendon Parry** '04 and **Samantha Gross** '15.

Clare Frost '06 writes: “My first feature, *The Sisters Karras*, is now available to watch for free on Tubi in North America. I hope everyone enjoys this tale of family, legacy, success... and Greek textiles. My production company SK Deli Market Productions is now



Mike Makowsky '13 &
Cara Newlon '14

in pre-production on our next feature, *The Art of Quitting Gracefully*.” Contact Clare at info@clarelouisefrost.com.

Jenna Grace Sciuto, professor of English at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, published her second book, *Intersecting Worlds: Colonial Liminality in US Southern and Icelandic Literatures*, in 2025 with the University Press of Mississippi. The book recalibrates readings of southern U.S. writers by exploring comparable depictions of race, colonialism, whiteness, gender, and sexuality in Icelandic literature. Jenna will be returning to Iceland this summer as a writer-in-residence at Skriðuklaustur Cultural Center.

07 Send your news to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Daniela Saltzman writes: “I’m pleased to share that I published my first children’s book, *Your Mom’s a Person Too!*, on Jan. 20. After graduating from Brown, I started my career at Goldman Sachs and eventually left to pursue an MBA at Harvard Business School. Upon graduating, I joined Vice President Al Gore’s sustainability fund, Generation Investment Management, in London. Like my advocacy work in the sustainability sector, I want to help shift the conversation around motherhood to be honest, uplifting, and fun. I’m hopeful this book is a contribution to that end.”

08 Send your news to Class Communications Cochair **Adam Axler** at adamaxler@gmail.com.

IN THE NEWS

Ayoosh Pareek '12 joined Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) in New York City as a sports medicine surgeon. He specializes in hip, knee, and shoulder surgery, with advanced training and expertise in complex reconstructive surgery, arthroscopic surgery, and joint preservation procedures. His interest is in developing machine learning processes to enhance diagnostic accuracy, surgical outcomes, and patient care in orthopedic surgery.

10 Send your news to Class Co-Vice President for Communications **Christian A. Martell** at christian_martell@alumni.brown.edu.

15TH REUNION

11 Send your news to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

12 Send your news to **Aaron Nam** at aaronnam@gmail.com.

13 Send your news to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Michael “Mike” Makowsky and **Cara Newlon** '14 were married on April 28, 2024, in Pacific Palisades, Calif., after a whirlwind 11-year relationship that began at Brown in 2013. Attending were maid of honor **Caroline Bologna** '14 and members of the bridal party **Alysse Austin** '14, **Travis Bogosian**, **Minji Cha** '14, **Rebecca Gevertz** '14, **Ava Langford** '14, **Matthew Peterson**, and **Travis Spangler**.

14 Send your news to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

In July 2024, renowned science communicators **Kimberly Arcand** and **Megan Watzke** coauthored *Light: The Visible Spectrum and Beyond*. “Light allows humans to see things around us, but we can only see a sliver of all the light in the

THE CLASSES

“The topic of social healing through the action of women ... is more timely than I could have imagined.”

—Kathleen Hirsch '79 AM

universe, also known as the electromagnetic spectrum. Organized along the order of the electromagnetic spectrum—from radio waves to gamma rays—each chapter focuses on a different type of light.” The book contains hundreds of stunning full-color photographs, including new images from the James Webb Space Telescope.

15 Send your news to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.
Samantha Gross (see **Anne Duggan** '06).

10TH REUNION

16 Send your news to Class Vice President for Communications **Alexandra Garcia** at alexandragarcia531@gmail.com.

17 Send your news to Class Copresident **Orlando E. Rodriguez** at lando1795@gmail.com.

19 Send your news to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Arvin Singh has been appointed Secretary of Health for the West Virginia Morrissey Administration. Dr. Singh brings a wealth of experience and expertise, including serving as vice president of strategy and communications for University of Maryland Shore Regional Health since 2020. He also was chairman of the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce and chief operating officer for OHL, a provider network affiliate of the Louisiana State University Health System. Beyond corporate organizations, Dr. Singh worked with Johns Hopkins Medicine, where he led initiatives and spearheaded population health projects that transformed patient transportation and care delivery. His professional journey includes formative roles as an intern in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Executive Office of the President, and as a Pathways Program participant at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). These experiences offered him invaluable

insights into the intersection of public policy, healthcare strategy, and governmental operations—an essential foundation for his current role. His firsthand understanding of federal and legislative processes uniquely positions him to lead West Virginia's health initiatives with a comprehensive perspective.

5TH REUNION

22 Send your news to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.

Trisha Ballakur was named in *Forbes* 30 Under 30 in the Mobility and Transportation category. Contact Trisha at trisha.ballakur@gmail.com.

Adam Furman writes: “The Scientific Foresight Unit of the European Parliamentary Research Service is a wonderful organization that is making science heard in the EU government. I’m grateful for the opportunity to be a trainee here, conducting research and publishing articles. My time has reinforced what I learned at Brown: the importance of scientists and academics to step outside of their comfort zones to communicate, interact, and listen to what is going on in other parts of life. I have learned so much by listening, and also found my perspective is appreciated and valued! Science is for everyone.” Contact Adam at adam_furman@alumni.brown.edu.

24 Send your news to the BAM at alumni_magazine@brown.edu.
Sierra Riley (see **Caryl-Ann Miller Nieforth** '59).

GS **Bakul Kamani** '71 ScM writes: “I would like to send a shout out to my colleagues from 1969-1971 when I was at Brown engineering working on fluid dynamics under Dr. Karlsson. I remember **Suresh Rawal** '75 PhD, who was a great cook and was invited to all parties. I remember **Amit Bhattacharya** '72 PhD, **Tridib Biswas** '72 AM, '77 PhD, and **Dilip Desai** '70 ScM, as well as a couple of Turkish and Greek friends. My life has been everything a person could wish for. I married in 1972 and have a daughter, Anjali; a son, Amit; son-in-law Manish Singh; and two beautiful granddaughters, Simran (12) and Syra (3). Absolute joy in our life for Pratima, my wife and faithful partner for 53 years. Wishing all our friends a happy and prosperous New Year.”

IN THE NEWS

Stanford Economist and Nobel Laureate **Guido W. Imbens** '89 AM, '91 PhD became the faculty director of Stanford Data Science on April 1, an initiative housed within the Office of the Vice Provost and Dean of Research that supports research and scholars through data-driven discovery and data science education opportunities across campus. He specializes in econometrics and, in particular, methods for drawing causal inferences, which measure the cause-and-effect relationships between variables using both experimental and observational data.

Bob Recktenwald '75 PhD writes that he “taught at universities across Asia till this century.” Currently, he’s been broadcasting hundreds of his new observations, searchable on the internet at “Extra Thoughts by Robert Recktenwald” blog and with different items through the pseudonymic “Surplus Thoughts by Kiersta Recktenwald” blog.

Kathleen Hirsch '79 AM writes: “I’m thrilled to announce the publication of my first book of poems, *Mending Prayer Rugs*—a milestone in a long life of publications—at the age of 71. The debut of this book, which treats the topic of social healing through the action of women over time and geographies, is more timely than I could have imagined. When I was a student in the writing program studying under John Hawkes and Verlin Cassill, I worked for the Athletic Association as a writer and moonlighted a bit for BAM. My brother, **Matthew Hirsch** '84, saw the early days of the Watson Institute and worked directly with Tom Watson. We have deep roots in the Brown experience and extended community.”

Joel Scheraga '79 AM, '81 PhD (see '76).

Jessica Lévai '03 AM, '07 PhD, the author of *The Night Library of Sternendach: A Vampire Opera in Verse*, published a second book, *The Glass Garden*. This novella combines space horror and family drama, inspired in no small part by the author’s study of Egyptology at Brown. Visit JessicaLevai.com for more.



OBITUARIES

Survivors and friends of the deceased can help by completing the obituary form found at brownalumnimagazine.com, or by sending information to: Obituaries, *Brown Alumni Magazine*, Box 1854, Providence, R.I. 02912. Managing Editor Sheila Dillon can also be contacted via email or phone: sheila_dillon@brown.edu or (401) 863-3118.

40s **Richard A. "Dick" Grout** '42, of Traverse City, Mich.; Dec. 19 at 104 years of age. He was a decorated World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Army as part of the first wave during the D-Day landings on Omaha Beach, achieving the rank of captain. He later led engineering companies in critical operations. After living in Boston and Los Angeles, he and his wife relocated to Michigan and remained until her passing in 1985. He remarried and enjoyed traveling worldwide with his wife until her passing in 2014. He was involved with Suttons Bay Rotary Club and in 2022, at the age of 101, joined the Rotarians in a sky-diving fundraiser. He was a founding member of the Traverse City International Affairs Forum. In January 2024, he was awarded the French Legion of Honor Medal for his role in liberating France during the war. He is survived by his three children and their spouses, two stepchildren, six grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, seven step-great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Edward N. Clarke '46, '51 PhD, of Worcester, Mass.; Jan. 16. He matriculated at Brown through the Navy ROTC program, served in World War II, and was honorably discharged with the rank of lieutenant. He remained in the Naval Reserves until 1957. He earned a graduate degree at Harvard and then returned to Brown to earn his PhD. He was among the earliest engineers and scientists helping create the semiconductor industry while working at Sylvania and Sperry Semiconductor, and he was one of the founders of National Semiconductor Corp. In 1965, he joined Worcester Polytechnic Institute as the associate dean of faculty, director of research, and professor of engineering and science. During his 30-year career at WPI he created the Solar Energy Center. He retired in 1995 but remained active in academics, continuing engagements with WPI, Brown, Nichols College, and the U.S. Naval War College Foundation in Newport, R.I., until age of 95. He was drawn to nature for relaxation, was an avid swimmer and downhill skier, and he also enjoyed hiking in the hills and mountains of the Northeast. He is survived by a daughter, three sons, three daughters-in-law, 11 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, a

sister and brother-in-law, a sister-in-law, and many nieces and nephews.

Eugene F. Mullin Jr. '46, of Lewes, Del.; Nov. 9. He attended Brown through the Navy ROTC program and served in the U.S. Navy for two years and in the Naval Reserve until 1958. He began studies at Harvard Law School but due to family circumstances, transferred to George Washington Law School. He went on to become a lecturer at George Washington Law School and was a founding partner of Mullin and Connor. In addition to his professional career, he had a variety of interests that included scuba diving, reading, and literature. He is survived by five children, 10 grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

Margaret Poh Byrne '47, of Devon, Pa.; Dec. 22. After Brown, she worked in communications for the *Newark Evening News* and for Babcock & Wilcox, where she met her future husband, who predeceased her in 1990. She was a talented oil painter and enjoyed decoupage work, braiding wool rugs, sewing her own clothes, gardening, cooking and baking, and welcoming rescue dogs and cats into her home. She is survived by two sons, a daughter-in-law, two grandchildren, two great-granddaughters, many nieces, and a nephew.

Dorcas Hamilton Cohen '48, of Kennebunkport, Me., formerly of New York City and Westfield, N.J.; Jan. 20. While attending Brown, she met her future husband, **Frederick J. Cofer** '48, who predeceased her. Due to Fred's military service, they traveled to Europe and returned to settle in New York City, where Dorcas worked at *Vogue*. As Fred's career advanced they moved several times, settling in Westfield. Dorcas returned to school, earning a PhD in clinical psychology from Rutgers. After her children were grown, she returned to NYC and worked at Beth Israel Hospital as the director of family therapy as well as maintaining a private practice. She married a second time to Solomon Cohen, and they enjoyed traveling before his passing. She retired to Maine and enjoyed watercolor painting, knitting, and tennis. She is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, a son and daughter-in-law, two stepchildren, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Henry E. Dirks Jr. '49, of Prospect Park, Pa.; Jan. 20. He had a 35-year career working for Dun & Bradstreet as an analytical report-

er and later he worked with Colonial Penn Insurance. He was a veteran of the U.S. Naval Air Corps and was a lifelong fan of the Eagles and Phillies. He also enjoyed gardening, golf, and working on home projects. He is survived by his wife, Annamaria; a son and daughter-in-law; and three grandchildren.

50s **Madeline Rocchio Dee** '50, of East Greenwich, R.I.; Oct. 11, of cardiac arrest. While at Brown, she met her future husband, **Robert K. Dee** '50. They were married for almost 62 years before his passing. She was an avid reader and a member of a book club for many years. She was a passionate Democrat and a lifelong globetrotter. Physically fit and active throughout her life, she enjoyed playing tennis, skiing, swimming, and walking. In her final decade, she took up tandem kayaking and cycling on a three-wheeled bike. She is survived by daughter **Nancy Dee** '82; two sons; a son-in-law; two daughters-in-law; a grandson; sister **Elena Rocchio** '52; and nieces and nephews, including **Laurel Rocchio** '78.

Carol Wentz Foulke '50, of Fairfax, Va., formerly of Woodstown, N.J.; Jan. 2. She was a social worker before stopping work to raise a family. Once her children were grown, she returned to social work at the Salem County Health Department's Office of Family Planning. She volunteered with CONTACT, a local crisis hotline, and was an active member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. She was also a member of AAUW, the Woodstown Women's Club, and many choral groups, and was a 60-year member of the Bridge Club. After retiring, she enjoyed sailing and traveling with her husband, who predeceased her. She is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, a daughter-in-law, two granddaughters, and two great-grandchildren.

George C. Petropoulos '50, of Middletown, R.I.; Jan. 7. He obtained a law degree from Boston University and served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Following his military service, he worked briefly in private practice before joining Raytheon, where he had a successful 34-year career. A lifelong member of St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church, he served on several committees and was past president of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association. He is survived by his wife, Agnes; two daughters and their spouses; a grandson; nieces; and nephews.

Lewis R. Mills '51, of St. Louis, Mo.; Dec. 8. He was awarded the Order of the Coif upon graduation from Washington University Law School and received a Juris Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin. After serving in the U.S. Army, he returned to St. Louis to practice law. He joined the faculty of Washington Uni-

OBITUARIES

Robert A. "Bob" Fearon '51, of New York City; Jun. 4, 2024. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force just before the end of World War II. Upon being honorably discharged as a sergeant he headed to Dartmouth College, but two days later he enrolled at Brown, where he made numerous lifelong friends, was a member of Sigma Chi, was head cheerleader his senior year, and was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1975. His career began as a staff writer for General Electric, where he also met his future wife, Mary. He moved to *Time Magazine* and worked in both their New York and London offices before transitioning to advertising at IBM. He then cofounded Friedlich, Fearon, and Strohmeyer before being recruited to join Doremus & Co., a firm focused on Wall Street. He served as president of the American Association of Advertising Agencies, and during that time he formed Fearon, O'Leary and Kaprielian. He concluded his career at his own firm, The Creative Zone. Additionally, he was an amateur photographer and while living in New Canaan, Conn., served on the board of the Silvermine Guild of Artists, during which time he created *The Doors of Dublin*, an internationally known award-winning poster. The images and rights were purchased by the Irish Tourism Board in Dublin. He was also a member of Mensa International. His true passion was writing and he spent the final years of his life penning novels. In 1983, he met Nancy Barnett Morse, with whom he formed a more than 40-year partnership; she survives him. In addition to Nancy, he is survived by daughter **Jennifer Fearon** '77; son **Jeffrey** '75; two grandchildren; Nancy's two sons, including **Richard Turits** '83; Nancy's four grandchildren; and Mary, the mother of his children.

versity Law School in 1964 and taught courses in corporate law, securities regulation, and legal history. He served as acting dean of the law school from 1972 to 1973, then returned to the practice of law at Peper, Martin, Jensen, Maichel & Hetlage. In 1997 he joined Thompson Coburn, where he worked until his retirement. He enjoyed reading, fishing, cooking, and traveling. He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, a son and daughter-in-law, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Dorothy Blair Sage '51, of Peace Dale, R.I.; Sept. 17. She had been employed with MIT in their personnel department before marrying and moving to Peace Dale. She embraced her Rhode Island community and was involved in a local bowling league, was part of a play reading group, and enjoyed playing croquet, painting, and traveling. She also hosted international students and made lifelong friendships. She is survived by four stepchildren and 10 grandchildren.

Gerald Berkelhammer '52, of Montgomery Township, N.J.; Dec. 31. After receiving his PhD in organic chemistry from the University of Washington, he worked at American Cyanamid Company for 42 years, where he rose to be the executive director of chemical discovery. During his career he received 41 patents and authored 11 chemical journal papers. He was a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Sigma Xi, and Phi Lambda Upsilon. He volunteered at Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, now known as Learning Ally, and was a member and treasurer of Community Without Walls. For more than 70 years he was an avid tennis player and competed in the Mercer County Men's Tennis League. He also enjoyed skiing, gardening, and camping. He is survived by his wife, Sheila; daughter **Jill Zorn** '78; two

sons, including **Fred** '80; a daughter-in-law; a son-in-law; and five grandchildren.

David R. Nichols '52, of Princeton, Mass.; Jan. 13. After Brown, where he was a member of the cheerleading squad and active in Phi Gamma Delta, he earned a master's degree in geology from Cornell University. His thesis helped map the bedrock geology of the coast of Rhode Island for the United States Geological Survey. He was then drafted into the U.S. Army Artillery Corps and was an instructor stationed at Fort Chaffee. Upon discharge, he began his career as an exploration geologist in Lowell, Vt. In 1961, he accepted an engineering position at Norton Company in Worcester, and he and his family settled in Princeton, where he had a 29-year career. He returned to Vermont frequently, having built a log cabin in Morristown. His interest in nature and the outdoors led him to join scouting, achieving the distinction of Eagle Scout, and working with many troops. He enjoyed photography, camping, sailing, hiking, cycling, and playing tennis and the piano. He was a member of the Princeton Library Renovation Committee, serving as geologist and fundraiser, and several local boards. He is survived by his wife, Christine; three children and their spouses; three grandchildren; four stepchildren and their spouses; seven step-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.

James Y. Sweet '52, of Rosman, N.C.; Jan. 14. After graduating, he served in the U.S. Army and went on to work for the Army Security Agency, and later the National Security Agency, from which he retired as deputy chief in 1986. He was the recipient of the NSA 1967 Citizenship Award and the 1985 Meritorious Civilian Service Award. He enjoyed playing golf, sculpting clay, weaving Nantucket Lightship baskets, and traveling. He is survived by his wife, Caryl; six

children; and 23 grandchildren.

Ulises Giberga '53, of New York City; Dec. 1. He had a long career with Chase Manhattan Bank and Republic National Bank of New York. In retirement, he pursued his passion for acting with the St. Bart's Players. He also enjoyed playing squash, tennis, and bridge. Phi Beta Kappa. He is survived by his wife, Katherine Jane; two daughters and sons-in-law; a son; and five grandchildren.

Barbara Reese Howard '53, of Warren, N.J.; Dec. 30. She taught preschool at Plainfield's YWCA and joined Head Start's early education program. She became an advocate for inclusive special education and earned her master's in special education from Rutgers University. Her passion for teaching was extended through tutoring. She was a member of the International Reading Association and Literacy Volunteers of America. After retirement, she established a library at a women's shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children. Seeing the need for Jewish education and social connections, she and her husband helped found the Mountain Jewish Community Center, which became Temple Har Shalom. She was an active member of the League of Women Voters and the National Organization for Women (NOW). She was one of "The Smart Chix," a special friends community of retired Warren educators. She was an avid reader and enjoyed traveling, attending events at Temple Har Shalom, exercising at Healthy Bones, attending yoga classes, and hosting women at Rosh Chodesh gatherings. She is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, two sons, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a sister, a niece, and nephews.

Roger E. Marchand '53, of the Villages, Fla., formerly of Webster, Mass.; Nov. 26. He owned and operated Marchand Insurance Agency with his wife, son, and daughter before retiring to Florida in 1999. As a representative of Travelers Insurance, he was awarded the Health Quality Award, was the 1973 and 1976 National Health Production leader, and for five years was the Northeast Regional Health Production Leader. He was a World War II Marine Corp veteran. He enjoyed camping, sports, and card games. He is survived by four daughters, three sons, a daughter-in-law, two sons-in-law, 13 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

Joanna Chiotinos Zauchenberger '53, of Leawood, Kans.; Nov. 23. She continued her education at Yale, earning a master's in education, and taught French in a local school. Her husband's job saw them move to California and then to Kansas, where she continued to teach French at the Barstow School in Kansas City, Mo., for more than 25 years. During that time, she was also regional director for

the American Institute for Foreign Study and enjoyed taking students abroad to learn. She and her husband were donors to the Lyric Opera and she volunteered as a guide at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art on weekends. She is survived by two sons, a daughter-in-law, two grandsons, and a great-grandson.

Ronald "Ron" J. Abdow '54 of Longmeadow, Mass.; Jan. 22. He excelled as a two-way end for Brown's football team. After graduation, he served in the U.S. Navy for two years followed by work in his father's scrap iron business in Worcester before becoming a Big Boy franchise owner in Massachusetts and Connecticut with his brother George. He remained in the restaurant business for nearly 50 years. He was known for his philanthropy, community leadership, involvement in Brown athletics, and his career as a Division 1 college football official. He officiated numerous perennial rivalries and in the 1988 Orange Bowl, which saw Miami beat Oklahoma for the national title. In 1997, he was recognized by the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame. He served as chair of several boards, trustee for Baystate Medical Center, and director for several regional banks. He also served as a member of the Brown Sports Foundation. He was predeceased by his wife of 61 years, Gladys Abdow. He is survived by three children and their spouses, including **Steven** '81 and **David** '83, and five grandchildren.

Clarence C. Barksdale '54, of St. Louis, Mo.; Dec. 25. Following graduation from Brown and service in the U.S. Army Counterintelligence Corps, he joined First National Bank in St. Louis. He was named president 16 years later, the youngest person to hold the title at that time. He was instrumental in the renaming of the bank to Centerre Bancorporation before its buyout from Boatmen's Bancshares. In 1989, he retired from banking and became vice chairman and a member of the board of trustees at Washington University, where he remained until 2004. During his career he served on numerous boards and was a trustee of Brown. He volunteered with many civic organizations that included the Missouri Botanical Society, the Boy Scouts of Greater St. Louis, St. Louis Zoo, and the Muny Opera. He was named one of *TIME Magazine's* "Top 200 Young Leaders in the Country" in 1974 and *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* "Man of the Year" in 1982. He enjoyed crossword puzzles and playing tennis. He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law; a son and daughter-in-law; three grandchildren, including **Elizabeth C. Barksdale** '23; his brother **Henry** '50; and many nieces and nephews.

Herbert S. Cohen '54, of Boston; Dec. 11. He was the founder of the Cohen Law Group, which he owned and operated for 65 years

while practicing law. He served as class vice president for many years and volunteered his time and legal expertise as general counsel for Freedom House. He is survived by daughter **Kathryn Cohen** '04; a son; two grandchildren; brother **Stafford** '56; a sister-in-law; and two nephews, including **Matthew Cohen** '87.

Joan P. Baxter Fogarty '54, of Alexandria, Va.; Jan. 17. In addition to being a homemaker, she enjoyed working at Good Shepherd Catholic Church for 20+ years. She also enjoyed playing tennis and vacationing in Newport, R.I. She is survived by her husband, Joseph Fogarty; six children; 15 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

George D. Morrison '54, of Naples, Me.; Jan. 5. After graduating from Brown, where he was a member of the football and baseball teams, he operated his own sales agency and stayed active in business well into his 70s. He is survived by three daughters, seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, a niece, and a nephew.

Rosamond "Roz" Waldron Wadsworth '54, of Philadelphia; Nov. 5. For seven decades she enjoyed a musical career as an accomplished soprano soloist, voice teacher, choral director, and concert producer. She earned her master's from Eastman College of Music and taught for several years in Kentucky before returning to Rhode Island in the late 1950s. She taught music in Providence public schools; voice, language, and diction at Barrington College; then developed a private teaching practice that she continued into her 80s. She assisted in organizing and producing for musical causes. She founded Concerts at the Point in Little Compton, which continue today. She is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, a son, a former daughter-in-law, three grandchildren, and seven nieces and nephews.

Brian B. Wallace '54, of Centerville, Mass.; Jan. 7. He served two years in the U.S. Army after graduation, then taught in Boston-area school districts while working part-time at his aunt's bar. He met his future wife there and eventually became a nightclub partner. Because of his success in business, he was able to retire early and enjoy gardening, boating, tennis, and reading. He is survived by his wife, Lorna Roderick; three daughters, including **Brooke Wallace** '05 and **Brittany Wallace** '07; a son-in-law; two grandchildren; and two sisters.

Sylvia Moscovitz Zigun '54, of Hamden, Conn.; Jan. 10. After earning a master's in nursing from Yale, she married and raised two sons. She later returned to school to pursue a master of science degree at the University of Bridgeport and completed her PhD in health psychology at the Union Institute, eventually becoming a psychotherapist. She served as chair of nursing services for

the Southeastern Fairfield Chapter of the American Red Cross from 1974 to 1976. She was recognized as a noteworthy psychotherapist and health educator, earning an entry in *Marquis Who's Who*. She also became a licensed ham radio operator. She was devoted to the Jewish community and served as vice president of Congregation Rodeph Shalom Synagogue and president of its Sisterhood. She was an active member of several medical professional organizations, Phi Beta Kappa, and Sigma Xi. She is survived by two sons and their spouses, seven grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

William R. Corbus '55, of Chipley, Fla.; Jan. 9. He was employed by a certified public accounting firm in Arlington before moving to St. Petersburg, Florida, in 1973, where he and his wife became owners and managers of the Panasea Motel, Treasure Island. After the sale of the motel, he became a deacon and custodian at Azalea Baptist Church in St. Petersburg. In 1999 he retired to McIntosh, Florida, and enjoyed fishing and being an active member of Orange Lake Baptist Church. He relocated to Chipley in 2010. He enjoyed reading, history trivia, game shows, and football. He is survived by his wife, Jean; two daughters; a son-in-law; a granddaughter; a niece; and four nephews.

Constance Payan Danforth '55, of Portsmouth, R.I.; Jan. 16. While attending Brown, she met her future husband, **John L. "Skip" Danforth** '52, who predeceased her in 2009. She was active in garden clubs in Barrington, R.I., and Montclair, N.J., and she and Skip volunteered with Tap-In, assisting the elderly with appointments. She enjoyed summers spent at Craigville, Mass., with extended family. She is survived by two daughters, two sons, a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law, and seven grandchildren.

Warren F. Ilchman '55, of Bronxville, N.Y.; Nov. 21, from respiratory failure and pneumonia. He taught at Williams College and UC Berkeley and received a Fulbright to India. His career turned to university administration and he was made dean at Boston University, executive vice president of academic affairs at SUNY Albany, then president of Pratt Institute. He authored 17 books during his career. He was named Asia advisor to the Ford Foundation, director of the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy, and founding director of the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans from 1998 to 2011. He was a member of the National Academy for Public Administration, the American Society for Public Administration, and proud president of his Brown class for many years. Phi Beta Kappa. He enjoyed traveling and gardening and is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, a son and daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren.



FAREWELL

Theater Maverick

Richard Foreman '58 mesmerized the downtown NYC performance scene

Stage sets adorned with strange fragments of Rube Goldberg machines, divided up with striped lengths of string, labeled in English and Hebrew. Soundscapes that marry ominous rumbling with endlessly looping bits of music. Actors in bizarre costumes randomly dancing, throwing things, waving things—with slo-mo, dreamlike precision. Deadpan, cryptic lines such as: “Truth revealed, believe it or not, takes the unfortunate shape of everything that isn’t true.” And titles like *My Head Was a Sledgehammer*, *King Cowboy*, *Rufus Rules the Universe!* and *Rhoda in Potatoland*.

Starting in 1968, when Richard Foreman '58 founded the Ontological-Hysteric theater, he conceived and directed more than 50 hypnotically bizarre, ritualistic productions, earning Foreman the multiple-Obie-winning reputation as one of the most

singularly compelling auteurs of the downtown Manhattan theater scene. (His last show, *Old-Fashioned Prostitutes (A True Romance)*, was staged in 2013.)

“He was cerebral but also was a terrific showman, the existentialist Ziegfeld,” says former chief *New York Times* theater critic Ben Brantley of Foreman, whose shows Brantley reviewed with enthusiasm from the '90s into the 21st century. “His scenery and props looked like they’d been collected from a scavenger hunt, Brantley says, “and yet essentially his plays were all the same play, about the elusiveness of our own consciousness—how it’s always shifting and nothing stays fixed in the world.”

Foreman died in Manhattan on January 4 at the age of 87 from pneumonia, the *New York Times* reported. Wrote theater critic Helen Shaw in the *New Yorker*: “With the death of the director Richard Foreman...

an era came to an end. You might define that era as a time of American aesthetic swagger, when artists such as Foreman, Mabou Mines, Meredith Monk, and Robert Wilson enjoyed international attention. ... But to me, and to many others, a whole half century was just ... the era of Richard Foreman.”

It is hard to convey on the page the transfixing strangeness of Foreman’s entirely from-his-own-head productions, many of which this writer saw in the '90s at the Ontological’s longtime home inside St. Mark’s in the Bowery, an East Village church long associated with avant-garde performance. The easiest shorthand for his shows, which almost always ran about 65 minutes, would be to say that they were like extremely vivid, sometimes sinister, sometimes dryly funny dreams—as full of philosophical declarations and ponderous silences as they

were slapstick and wry one-liners. They often only took on meaning and coherence once you, the viewer, were halfway in, fully under their spells. To call Foreman’s sensibility a mashup of Ingmar Bergman’s existential moodiness, Woody Allen at his most absurdly despair-ridden, and Willy Wonka’s wacked-out dream factory wouldn’t be far off.

His work strongly influenced many strange-but-fun downtown theater directors and companies that came in his wake, such as Target Margin and Elevator Repair Service. “His shows were trippy, disjointed, and philosophical but also verbally gutsy and carnal,” says David Herskovitz, the founder of Target Margin, who assistant-directed for Foreman in the late '80s and early '90s and is a co-executor of Foreman’s literary estate. “They were very tight, intricate, detailed, and non-narrative, with no obvious story.” A typical bit of opaque but funny dialogue, Herskovitz recalled, was “What’s happening now?” “I’m happening—with my snacks. How about you?”

Foreman was born Edward Friedman in 1937 and adopted by a couple who raised him in the posh New York City suburb of Scarsdale, where, in high school, he quickly established himself as a “theatrical genius of an actor,” according to artist Richard Kostelanetz '62, who said that Foreman, a few years his senior growing up, both urged him to apply to Brown and told him what to take when he got there. “He was like an older brother to me even though he was never very social,” Kostelanetz says the two ended up living for 34 years on the same block in Soho.

Foreman majored in English at Brown and got his MFA from the Yale School of Drama. After, in New York, he got a job through his father managing an apartment building while nearly getting a break as a playwright on

Broadway. After it failed to pan out, he put on his first experimental play, *Angelface*, in a space belonging to the experimental filmmaker Jonas Mekas. (The two also made short films together in the 1970s.) That play was the beginning of the Ontological-Hysteric theater, which moved to its longtime home space at St. Mark's in 1992. He gave his company its name, he told the *New York Times* in 1976, because his productions were "basically hysteric—repressed passions emerging as philosophical interactions."

Foreman was married twice, first to the actor-turned-film-critic Amy Taubin from 1961 to 1972, then in 1988 to the artist and actor Kate Manheim, who performed in many of his works and served as a kind of muse to him. Foreman's only immediate survivor, Manheim, on a brief call, said that Foreman was, to her, a combination of Casanova, Socrates, and Da Vinci, "because he was a jack of all trades." She described him as "very charismatic and lovable" but also "introverted" and "often very mean—a long time ago in France, he stopped my performance in the middle of a show because he wasn't happy with it. I had friends there, so it was embarrassing."

Perhaps obsessiveness to the point of abrasiveness was inherent to an artist who was so singularly determined to alter his audience's consciousness through what he put directly in front of them for just over an hour. "He did this not just through language but total staging," says Jay Sanders, artistic director of NYC's Artists Space, who was close with Foreman and interviewed him late last year on stage in one of Foreman's final public appearances. "He showed that you can use the structure and form of your artwork to conjure otherworldly perceptions in the viewer. He did that better than anyone else."—TIM MURPHY '91

Susan Morgan Rolontz '55, of New York City; Jan. 29. She was an editor, writer, and executive vice president at the *Tobe Report*, a New York-based fashion forecasting publication that published a weekly report predicting trends and styles for global retailers. She covered the fashion circuits of New York, London, Milan, and Paris, attending and photographing more than 100 runway shows each season. She is survived by daughter **Lee A. Rolontz** '84; a son; a daughter-in-law; a son-in-law; and four grandchildren.

Dawn Ratcliffe Vivian '55, of Standish, Me.; Dec. 11. In addition to being a kindergarten teacher, she was also a youth choir director and organist at several churches in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Maine. She enjoyed serving on the welcoming committee to newcomers at St. Ann's Church in Windham, Me., and spending time with her children when they all could get together. While at Brown, she met her husband, **John A. Vivian** '55, who passed away two months prior. She is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, three sons, a daughter-in-law, 10 grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.

John A. Vivian '55, of Standish, Me.; Oct. 18, after a long illness. After graduating from Brown, where he met his future wife, **Dawn Ratcliffe Vivian** '55, who passed two months after him, he served as a naval officer for three years. Following his service, he became an officer in the banking sector, eventually becoming president of the Quincy Cooperative Bank. He enjoyed singing and was a devout Christian. He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, three sons, a daughter-in-law, 10 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, brother **Richard** '51, and a sister-in-law.

John E. Delhagen '56, of Fort Myers, Fla., formerly of Allentown, Pa.; Jan. 23. His career began in sales at Westinghouse in Pittsburgh before switching to a career as a stockbroker. He also taught personal finance at the Allentown Business School. In 1972, he moved to the Pocono Mountains to build and operate the Jim Thorpe KOA campground with his family. He had an entrepreneurial vision and partnered with Carbon County Tourism. He was an active member of several organizations, including the Brown Alumni Association and Mensa. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and he enjoyed playing poker, golfing, and fishing. He is survived by two daughters; son **J. Edward III** '83; a daughter-in-law; a son-in-law; and three grandchildren.

Joseph B. Palmer '56, of Salem, N.H.; Nov. 5. He was the owner of Palmer Spring Company, which he ran for 70 years. He is survived by his wife, Clara; three daughters; two sons-in-law; three sons; a daughter-in-law; 14 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

John F. Conner '57, of East Hampton,

N.Y.; Dec. 18. He was a national and internationally known runner. He ran for the New York Pioneer Club and the New York Athletic Club at Masters and World Veterans competitions. He finished in first place in numerous races and set world records; the Old Montauk Athletic Club's Montauk Mile Cup is now known as the Montauk Mile John F. Conner Cup. His running career was sidetracked when he was hit by a truck from behind while cycling. Undaunted by a shattered hip, he went on to become a top age-group triathlete. After Brown he served in the U.S. Army, honorably discharged with the rank of corporal. His career encompassed a variety of positions, including working for the New York State Thruway Authority, in the New York University admissions office, driving a New York City taxi, and working at the Manhattan Art and Antiques Center. He worked for Ed Pospisil Real Estate, served as director for the Head Start program in East Hampton, and founded the John Conner Real Estate and John Conner Construction firms, building affordable houses for East Hampton families. He also served on the board of Windmill Housing, which offered affordable housing for senior citizens. He was among the organizers for the annual East Hampton Artists and Writers Charity Softball games and organized numerous foot races for charity. He also performed in amateur theater for 25 years. He is survived by his wife, Henrika; a son-in-law; a granddaughter; and cousins.

Doris Finke Minsker '57, of Scottsdale, Ariz., formerly of New York; Oct. 23. She was instrumental in the development of Knowledge Industry Publications with her husband, publishing books and magazines. They relocated to Scottsdale in 1995. She is survived by three children and four grandchildren.

Barbara Toohey Smith '57, of Rockville, Md.; Dec. 25. She was an active member of First Church of Christ, where she volunteered in various capacities for more than 50 years. Her passion for gardening led her to be a member of the Woodley Garden Club and she enjoyed walking her dogs and playing bridge. She is survived by three children and a grandson.

Roger E. Stoddard '57, of Concord, Mass.; Jan. 21. While a student at Brown, he cofounded Sibylline Books, selling books from his dorm room to support his studies. He served for four decades at Harvard's Houghton Library, rising to senior curator of rare books and senior lecturer in the Department of English. He expanded Houghton's collections and authored more than 200 works, from bibliographies to essays, including *Marks in Books, Illustrated and Explained* (1985). He was a member of several bibliophilic societies. In retirement he wrote numerous essays and completed A

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Bibliographical Description of Books and Pamphlets of American Verse Printed from 1610 through 1820. He and his wife enjoyed spending summers in Maine, where they cultivated a collection of Maine artwork. He is survived by his wife **Helen Heckel Stoddard** '56; a daughter; a son; and four grandchildren.

John P. Becker '58, of Arlington, Va.; Feb. 11. He was a foreign service officer from 1961 to 2005. His diplomatic career took him and his family to various postings around the world and he concluded his career at the Department of State's Office of World War II Reparations. He was an avid cross-country runner and finished the 1968 Boston Marathon in 3 hours and 37 minutes. In addition to running, he had a passion for music and sang with the Augustinerkirche Choir in Vienna, the Metropolitan Chorale, the Arlington Chorale, and a barbershop chorus in Arlington. He was also active with the Arlington Rotary and enjoyed gardening. He is survived by his wife, Priscilla; two daughters, including **Alison Becker Weems** '89.5; and four grandchildren.

Albert P. Godreau '58, of Arlington, Vt., formerly of Conn.; Nov. 30. He suffered from polio as a teen but overcame to play hockey at Kimball Union Academy and at Brown, where he lettered and played two seasons as goalie. He graduated and entered Naval Officers Training School and completed training as what today is referred to as a Navy Seal. A career in banking followed, then he worked in commercial real estate in New York City, Chicago, and Stamford, Conn. In 1993, he moved to Arlington and served as land use administrator and later as health officer for Arlington for more than 20 years. He enjoyed fly-fishing, birding, and traveling. He is survived by his wife, Mardi Crane-Godreau; four children; five grandchildren, and his former spouse, Nancy Godreau.

Richard C. Hatch '58, of Nazareth, Pa., formerly of Northampton, Pa.; Oct. 28. After receiving his PhD from the University of New Hampshire, he joined the chemistry department at Muhlenberg College. During his more than 39 years at the college, he served in several positions that included professor of chemistry, chair of the chemistry department, and dean of the faculty, as well as serving on numerous faculty committees. In 1973 he received the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation Award, which is presented to a faculty member in recognition of outstanding teaching and for stimulating the intellectual development of students at Muhlenberg College. He enjoyed gardening and bird-watching and had a passion for the Philadelphia Eagles. He is survived by his wife, Deborah; a daughter; a son; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a brother.

Ludlow Miller '58, of Pleasanton, Calif.,

formerly of Philadelphia; Nov. 15. He served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy before becoming vice president at National Sugar Refining Company and then senior vice president at PNC Bank. In 2014 he relocated to California and enjoyed sailing, tennis, bocce, golf, and mountain climbing. While in Philadelphia, he served on numerous boards and committees. He is survived by his wife, Babbie; two daughters and sons-in-law; son **Ludlow** '95 and his wife; seven grandchildren; a sister; and nieces and nephews.

Barbara A. Scott Page '58, of Asheville, N.C., formerly of New York; Jan. 19, after a brief illness. She was an associate professor of sociology at SUNY College at New Paltz and a recipient of the president's award for excellence in teaching. During her tenure she helped establish the school's Women's Studies program. She was also an advocate for environmental and social justice. She enjoyed classical music, jazz, modern dance, and traveling to New York City. She is survived by two sons, a grandson, and her former spouse **Josiah B. Page** '58.

Dominic P. DiOrio '59, of Tiverton, R.I.; Feb. 12. He worked at the Naval Underwater System Center for 34 years before retiring in 1996. From 1985 to 1987 he was a science adviser for the U.S. Navy Submarine Force Pacific Fleet and received a Superior Civilian Service award for his performance during this assignment. In 1979, he was ordained a deacon in the Catholic Church and served as chaplain at nursing homes and the Veterans Home in Bristol. He was an assistant deacon at several East Providence Churches and a chaplain of the Bristol Chapter of the Daughters of Isabella. He is survived by his wife, Doris; a daughter and son-in-law; a son and daughter-in-law; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; a sister; and a brother.

Jerry Davidson Dreyer '59, of Boulder, Colo., and Naples, Fla.; Dec. 28. She was a homemaker and active community volunteer. She enjoyed traveling, reading, playing golf with her husband before his passing, and playing bridge and Mahjong. She is survived by three daughters, a son, two sons-in-law, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

James D. Gardner '59, of Rockingham, Va.; Jan. 22. He worked in the wholesale tire industry for 47 years, retiring from Michelin in 2017. Additionally, he earned a master's in theology and religious studies in 2009 from Caldwell College and was involved in ministries for several parishes, most recently with Friendship House at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. He coached at Parsippany Police Athletic League for 11 years. He enjoyed canoeing, hunting, fishing, archery, gardening, and reading. He is survived by his wife, Cathleen; two daughters; a son; two grandsons; three

stepchildren; three step-grandchildren; two brothers; and many nieces and nephews.

Francis W. Kennedy Jr. '59, of Hampton, N.H.; Jan. 24. He taught chemistry at Haverhill High School and at Andover High School, where he was also the assistant track and field coach. He also owned and operated Playland Arcade at Hampton Beach with his brother for more than 50 years. He is survived by a sister, a brother, a niece, and nephews.

Charles E. Mangan '59, of Cherry Hill, N.J.; Dec. 25. After completing his residency in obstetrics and gynecology and a fellowship in gynecologic oncology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP), he joined HUP's faculty and conducted groundbreaking research into gynecologic oncology. He published numerous articles in medical journals and became an associate professor at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. He remained at HUP for 20 years and then moved his practice to Pennsylvania Hospital, where he retired as chief of gynecologic oncology. Several times he was listed as one of *Philadelphia Magazine's* "Top Docs." He was a U.S. Army veteran and an investor in real estate, and traveled extensively, spending summers at his home in Newport, R.I. He is survived by his wife, Selena; three children; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Louis A. Rappaport '59, of New York City; Aug. 18, from cancer. She worked on Wall Street and in academia and then embarked on a decades-long career as a labor arbitrator and member of the National Academy of Arbitrators. Following her retirement, she was active as a tour guide for the Metropolitan Opera and served as a docent at the Museum of Natural History. She is survived by a stepdaughter, two granddaughters, and two great-grandchildren.

Thomas A. Storrs '59, of Southern Pines, N.C., formerly of Waitsfield, Vt.; Jan. 13. After serving in the Korean War and graduating from Brown, he managed one of the first Boston Whaler dealerships in the 1950s on St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. He settled in Vermont and cofounded a construction company, then with another partner created the Blue Tooth, a ski bar. He followed that business with The Den, a gathering spot. Tired of Vermont winters, he moved to Southern Pines and enjoyed playing golf. He is survived by his wife, Janice, and a son.

60s Alan Clayson II '60, of Stamford, Vt.; Jan. 3. For several years he taught Latin/Greek at Berkshire School and Taft School. He owned and operated Berkshire Sports Wear and also worked at Eaton Paper as an art director. He volunteered with the Broadband Committee. He is survived by his partner, Michelle Shafto;

a son and daughter-in-law; a granddaughter; and two sisters, including **Nancy Anne Forster** '63 and her husband **Alan Forster** '62.

Alan R. Goldman '60, '71 PhD, of Fairfax, Va.; Jan. 10. He worked for the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C., for 28 years. He had enjoyed traveling with his wife prior to her passing. He is survived by two daughters, a son-in-law, and two grandchildren.

Stephen A. Kramer '60, of Billings, Mont.; Jan. 19. He was an otolaryngologist and surgeon. After Brown he attended medical school at Tufts University and a residency at Yale. In 1971, he and his wife moved to Billings and he worked at the Billings Clinic, from which he retired in 2015 as its longest serving physician. He believed in giving back to his community and provided medical assistance to underserved populations, including time visiting the Crow Indian Reservation and rural Montana. He volunteered with Planned Parenthood, Congregation Beth Aaron, Meals on Wheels, and the Friends of Pompeys Pillar. He was a Little League umpire even after his own children had grown and once received the honor of being asked to umpire in the Little League Western Regional Tournament. He and his wife traveled extensively and visited all seven continents. He enjoyed watching and playing sports, riding motorcycles, hiking, camping, skiing, and river rafting. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; a daughter and son and their spouses; three grandchildren; and a brother and sister-in-law.

Allan Soares '60, of Sebring, Fla.; Feb. 6. At Brown, he played and coached hockey and golf. His passion for hockey continued after Brown as a player with various amateur teams, including the EHL's New Haven Blades and AHL's Providence Reds, and as a scout for the NHL's St. Louis Blues. He coached the Roger Williams hockey team and was player/coach of the Rhody Oldies Hockey Club. He also played golf and squash at Rhode Island Country Club, where he was a member of the Sunrise Athletic Group. He was a member of both the Cranston Schools Athletic Hall of Fame and Brown's Athletic Hall of Fame. Aside from athletics, he worked in the financial services industry with New England Financial before starting his own firm, Benefit Development Group. He is survived by his wife, Karen; a daughter; and a son and daughter-in-law.

Charles R. Steinberg '60, of New York City; Dec. 27, from complications of Alzheimer's disease. He earned his medical degree from Cornell medical school and completed his residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Cornell Medical Center, where he served as chief medical resident before going on to complete his fellowship in infectious

diseases. He practiced internal medicine at New York Presbyterian Hospital for more than 50 years. During the Vietnam War, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. In addition to his love of medicine, he enjoyed running, fishing, and family. He is survived by Judith Lambert; two daughters, including **Carolyn Robb Steinberg** '87; two sons-in-law; and four grandchildren.

Robert F. Lowe Jr. '61, of Brewster, Mass.; Jan. 27. After Brown he earned an MBA from New York University and began a career in banking—first investment banking at Irving Trust and later, with Paine Webber and Prudential Securities, founding and managing a fundraising consultancy—followed by work at the Kennedy Collective in Connecticut. In 2004, he retired to Truro on Cape Cod, where he enjoyed sailing and volunteering his time to historic restoration projects. After visiting San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, he purchased a home there and split his time between San Miguel and Cape Cod. Ever true, he served as president of his class for most of his life and was instrumental with fundraising efforts for Brown's track program. He is survived by three sons, two granddaughters, two great-grandchildren, and his former wife, **Elizabeth Delima** '61.

Robert W. Schmid '61, of Kingwood Twp., N.J.; Dec. 26. He worked at First National Bank of Central Jersey and then UltraBank, spending most of his career in the loan department before becoming head of marketing. He was later treasurer of Diehl's Jewelers in Bernardsville, N.J., and the tax assessor for Franklin Twp. in Pittstown, N.J., where he also served on the township planning board. He volunteered at the Red Cross and was a member of the Somerville Rotary Club and the Jaycees, where he served as treasurer and president. He enjoyed time spent with his family as well as gardening, sports, traveling, and reading about history. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Marx Schmid; four sons and their spouses; three grandchildren; a niece; and a nephew.

Carolyn Dee Nash Bates, of Tucson, Ariz.; Jan. 21. While attending Brown, she met her future husband, **Avery Bates** '61, who predeceased her. Together, they raised a family in Massachusetts and enjoyed life adventures before retiring to Tucson. She was a talented artist and antiques dealer and a spirited conversationalist. She is survived by her four children, eight grandchildren, and a brother.

Farrell Fleming '62, of British Columbia; Nov. 27. After Brown, where he was a drum major and student manager of the Brown Marching Band, he earned a master's in philosophy at the University of Washington and began teaching at the University of Manitoba in the 1970s. In 1978 he made a career change

and joined a pioneering initiative to enrich the lives of older adults by fostering active community involvement, which became the Creative Retirement Institute at Edmonds College. He led the Institute for more than two decades and was proud of his accomplishments, including the installation of a medical onsite clinic at the Edmonds Senior Centre and the establishing of a cold weather emergency shelter for the homeless. In 2020 he was honored to be the marshal of the Edmonds Parade. He is survived by his wife Delaine; a daughter-in-law; and two grandchildren.

Walter E. Farnam Jr. '63, of Newtown Square, Pa.; Jan. 22. He spent 22 years with Aetna Life and Casualty Co., where he became a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society and spent the last five years of his tenure heading the national accounts operations. He moved to Pennsylvania to head General Accident Insurance Company as president and COO, then as chairman and CEO. Later he chaired the boards of CGU Insurance Company and Crozer-Keystone Health System, and sat on the board of Kingsway Financial Services, Inc. He enjoyed time with his family, especially during the family's annual trip to Bermuda, where he spent a majority of the time on his moped. A long-term member of Aronimink Golf Club, he enjoyed golfing, swimming, scuba diving, and skiing. He was also an avid fan of Philadelphia's sports teams. He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, a son and daughter-in-law, and five grandchildren.

Robert Kroin '63, of Brookline, Mass.; Dec. 15, after suffering a heart attack. For 40 years he was the chief architect for the Boston Redevelopment Authority. He is survived by his wife, Judith; a son; two stepchildren; and six grandchildren.

Raymond M. Woller '63, of Athens, Ga.; Nov. 30, of pneumonia. He taught philosophy at Kent State University and the University of Georgia. He had been a competitive swimmer both regionally and nationally. He suffered from aphasia in the last decade of his life, which in turn stole the love of language that had defined him. He is survived by his wife, Doris; a stepdaughter and her spouse; two stepsons and their wives; and three grandchildren.

M. Anthony Gould '64, of Washington, D.C.; Jan. 14, from complications of pneumonia. He was a founding partner of the commercial real estate firm Larson, Ball, Gould & Collins and had a 37-year career in real estate and banking. He was the recipient of numerous awards for his professional accomplishments and his commitment to community service. He enjoyed championing educational opportunities for young people. He worked to help students of color attend his high school alma mater and encouraged dozens

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of students to matriculate at Brown, viewing this advocacy as one of his most meaningful legacies. He served on the boards of Woodberry Forest School, the Brown University Sports Foundation, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Washington, and the Metropolitan Club of Washington. He is survived by daughter **Margaret Gould Korn '97** and her husband **Adam Korn '97**; two grandsons; a sister; and a brother.

William J. Nathan '64, of Slingerlands, N.Y.; Dec. 18. He was the owner of Nathan Office Interiors. He served as president of the Albany Rotary Club and as district governor of Rotary District 7190, and on several boards, including the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York. He was president of the Brotherhood at Congregation Beth Emeth. Before his wife's passing, they were rarely seen apart and enjoyed traveling the world together. He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, a son, and two grandchildren.

Jane Newhagen '64, of Silver Spring, Md., formerly of Key West, Fla.; Jan. 20, of ALS. She taught elementary school at Palmer River Elementary School in Rehoboth, Mass., and at the International School of Paris in Paris, France. She was the author of three historical novels set in Key West, where she lived for 20 years: *Sand Dollar*, *Pieces of Eight*, and *Chambered Nautilus*. She is a coauthor of *After Life, Images from the Key West Cemetery*, and a contributor to the Key West Writers Guild anthologies. She served as archivist of the Key West City Cemetery for 14 years, creating the Cemetery Strolls that tell stories from Key West history and help fund cemetery restoration by the Historic Florida Keys Foundation. She served as archivist of the Key West City Cemetery from 2004 to 2018. She is survived by a daughter; son **John '89**, '01 PhD; and a brother.

James Shortell '64, of Greenfield, Mass.; Nov. 7. After Brown, he went on to earn a master's and PhD in psychology at UMass Amherst. While completing his doctoral dissertation, he worked at the Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance Center in Norwalk (Conn.) and was then invited to become the staff psychologist of the East Spoke inpatient behavioral health unit at the Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield, where he worked for the majority of his career, in addition to operating a private practice. He had a keen sense of humor and while working at East Spoke, he organized a humorous in-house newsletter called "The Loose Spoke" about and for his coworkers. He enjoyed designing holiday cards to make the recipients laugh. He spent time at his vacation home in Friendship, Me., where he enjoyed hiking and skiing. He is survived by his wife, Carol; three children; and two grandchildren.

Michael W. Dennis '65, of Haymarket,

Va.; Jan. 26. He was a neurosurgeon in Washington, D.C., and one of the surgeons that operated on a secret service detail for President Ronald Reagan following his attempted assassination, performing a complex procedure to remove an exploding bullet. He volunteered as a public health worker through the Earth Watch program providing medical care to local communities in Ghana, Bolivia, Poland, Russia, and Zimbabwe. After retiring, he earned an MBA from George Mason University and went on to be a consultant to corporations and an expert medical witness. He was involved with the Lifelong Learning Program and a frequent lecturer. He was active in his local community and served in leadership positions for many organizations. He is survived by his wife, Judy; three children; and five grandchildren.

Frederick M. Bush III '67, of New York City and Jackson, Miss.; Jan. 21. After Brown he attended the University of Mississippi School of Law, where he graduated first in his class, was editor-in-chief of the law journal, and was named outstanding law graduate by the faculty. Upon graduating from Ole Miss, he joined his father in practice at Mitchell, McNutt & Bush as an associate. He earned a Master of Laws degree from Harvard Law School in 1972, and two years later he was named a partner in Mitchell, McNutt & Bush and remained there for 15 years. In 1989, he joined Phelps Dunbar, where he spent the remaining 36 years of his career. He was the managing partner of the firm's Tupelo office for 22 years before being asked to relocate to Jackson to head Phelps Dunbar's business practice, where he remained active in the firm until his death. He enjoyed traveling, black-and-white photography, water skiing, and trout fishing. He also possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of the television comedy *Cheers*. He was an Eagle scout and veteran of the U.S. Navy. He is survived by two sons, a daughter-in-law, three granddaughters, brother **Richard '70**, a sister-in-law, his former spouse **Martha H. Adams '69**, and several nieces and nephews.

Peter M. Getz '67, of Columbia, S.C.; Dec. 15. While at Brown, he was a member of the Air Force ROTC and volunteered for service in Vietnam. He concluded his service as a captain of the Strategic Air Command. Following his military service, he earned an MBA at Georgia State University and met his future wife. They settled in Columbia and he opened Getzby's Deli, which he operated until 1990. He is survived by his wife, Libby; two sons; a daughter-in-law; two grandchildren; and two brothers.

Roger True '67, of Fairfield, Conn.; Oct. 18, from squamous cell carcinoma. After graduating from Brown, he had a long career with the Fairfield County indepen-

dent schools teaching courses in science and mathematics, coaching hockey and baseball, and filling many administrative positions that included department head, athletic director, dean of faculty, and head of Upper School. He enjoyed the outdoors, especially times spent with his wife on their boat in Cape Cod. He developed an interest in oceanography, marine biology, and meteorology and he enjoyed swimming, fishing, reading, solving puzzles, and attending sports events, especially Cape Cod League baseball games. He is survived by his wife, **Anita Northy True '67**, and a brother, **Richard '65**.

Darryl L. J. Fanelli '68, of Houston; Jan. 9. After graduating from the University of Houston's Bates College of Law, he worked independently and as managing partner of a law firm with Raymond M. Hill. His focus was in real estate, trust and probate, financial contracts, and oil and gas rights and leases. He later worked at T-Mobile building out its southeastern network. In retirement, he enjoyed traveling extensively throughout Europe with his wife, restoring historic homes, literature, and poetry. He is survived by his wife, **Ludmila Saposhkov Fanelli '68**; a daughter; a stepson; and two step-grandchildren.

James W. Culbreth '69, of Lilburn, Ga.; Sept. 3, 2024, of osteomyelitis of the spine. He had been an attorney at McKenna Long & Aldridge before retiring in 2009. He is survived by his wife, Loretta, and a son.

Nicholas C. Litchfield '69, of Reno, Nev., formerly of Maine, Connecticut, and Massachusetts; Oct. 6. After graduating from Brown, where he met his future wife, he taught French at Gould Academy. They were married in 1970 and both took a leave of absence from their jobs to refit a small cruising boat and sailed for four years aboard their *Take Five*. On returning, he worked as a yacht broker and began learning computer science at the University of New Hampshire and Columbia University. They moved to Connecticut and he taught at Greens Farms Academy. He retired from Greens Farms Academy and moved to Wayland, Mass., where he renovated their house and briefly did IT work for a trading firm out of Chicago. He retired to Reno in 2011 and enjoyed skiing in the winter and hiking in the summer. He is survived by his wife, **Nancy Jahn Litchfield '70**; two sons and their spouses; four grandchildren; two sisters; and a brother.

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Patricia A. Barald '70, '70 AM, of Washington, D.C.; Dec. 29. She earned a law degree from Cornell Law School and became the first woman to hold a full-time faculty position at the school. She was editor of the *Cornell Law Review* and was recognized by the Order of the Coif in 1973. She

practiced her entire legal career at Covington & Burling, focused on environmental law, eventually becoming partner—at the time, only the third woman to hold that title. She was known for her commitment to her clients, her understanding of complex legal issues, and her mentoring of young attorneys. She is survived by her husband, James Toupin; a son; a grandson; and a sister.

Richard P. Cole '70, of Providence, R.I.; Nov. 19. He went on to earn a master's in clinical psychology from St. John's University and worked for several years as a state psychologist for the R.I. Department of Children, Youth, and Families. He enjoyed coaching his daughter's softball team and later playing golf and working in his yard. He is survived by a daughter; a sister; two brothers, including **Bill** '67; two sisters-in-law; many nieces and nephews; and his former wife, Jennifer Bell-Cole.

James E. Van Epp Jr. '70, of Warren, R.I.; Nov. 7. He earned his PhD at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and completed a post doctorate degree at MIT. In addition to his academic accomplishments, he served in the U.S. Air Force as a second lieutenant. His taste in music spanned classical to early rock and roll, he enjoyed going to the theater and reading, and he was proud to be a member of the Boston Chapter of the Sherlock Holmes Society. He is survived by a sister and brother-in-law, a brother, a niece, and two nephews.

Eric T. Reenstierna '71, of Newton, Mass.; Feb. 5, after a two-decade battle with cancer. He had a long career as a commercial real estate appraiser but also worked at times as a lumber salesman, a photographer, a teacher, and a short order cook. Committed to protecting the environment, he served as president of the land trust for Newton and president of the Newton Conservators. He also served on the city's Conservation Commission and its Community Preservation Committee. He was instrumental in saving a large tract of open space at Kessler Woods. He volunteered at the Pine Street Inn working with the homeless and wrote six novels. He is survived by his wife, Anne; a daughter; a son; and six grandchildren.

Brookes M. Morin '72, of Helena, Mont.; May 22, while fly-fishing the Missouri River. After graduation, he headed to Jackson, Wyo. After several years in Jackson, where he met his former wife, he moved to Missoula, Mont., and obtained an MBA. In 1979, he moved to Helena with his family and worked for the Legislative Auditor's office, then for the City of Helena as assistant city manager. Later, he managed the Lewis and Clark County Fairgrounds and then worked at Fox Ridge Golf Course. Always an athlete, he excelled at alpine ski racing, tennis, golf, and soccer, achieving a hat trick on the Brown

Raymond J. Dever Jr. '72, of Tampa; Jan. 9. After Brown, he earned engineering master's degrees from Caltech and Princeton and went on to have a 40-year career focused on environmental engineering that included environmental assessment, waste management, and wastewater treatment projects across the eastern U.S. He directed a regional profit center for a national engineering consulting firm for more than 10 years and served as an adjunct instructor at the University of Florida Training, Research, and Education of Environmental Occupations Center. He moved to Tampa in 1990, married, started a family, and earned a master's in theology. He was deeply engaged with liturgical ministries, faith formation, and social justice and on Oct. 3, 2009, he was ordained a permanent Catholic Deacon for the Diocese of St. Petersburg. He served the community for 13 years. His perspective as a Catholic deacon was unique and as a father to a transgender daughter, he discovered a passion for ministry to the LGBTQ+ community and their families. He retired from engineering in 2013 and continued ministry work into his retirement with the support of the Diocese of Lexington, Ky., where he was incardinated in early 2024. He provided training and consultation on transgender issues to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and numerous Catholic dioceses and institutions. Striving to build awareness and compassion, he published articles in *U.S. Catholic Magazine* and *America Media's Outreach* and regularly contributed to *Bondings 2.0* blog with New Ways Ministry. In October 2024, he and his wife joined a group of LGBTQ+ Catholics for a private audience with His Holiness Pope Francis. He continued to advocate for greater acceptance of transgender people within the Church. He is survived by his wife, Laurie; three daughters; a son-in-law; and a sister and brother-in-law.

team and earning All-New England honors. He began fly-fishing at age 6, but his passion blossomed while in Jackson, where he was referred to as "the trout whisperer." He also was a longtime birder. In retirement he traveled to New Zealand to fly-fish for months at a time. He enjoyed coaching and volunteering and managing Helena Industries, which provided jobs to neurodivergent employees. He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, a son and daughter-in-law, five grandchildren, a brother and sister-in-law, and two nieces.

George E. Dixon '73, of Foster, R.I.; Nov. 29. While at Brown, he developed an interest in woodworking and apprenticed with master furniture maker Tage Frid at RISD. After graduation, he opened a woodshop with his twin brother in the South End of Boston, Dixon Brothers Woodworking, where he developed an interest in building custom staircases. After marrying in 1984, he moved to a farm in Foster and opened North Road Stair Builders, which designed and installed custom winding staircases across the Northeast. He developed a reputation as a master of the craft, and in 1996, he began giving woodworking lectures across the country. His teaching remains available on ThisIsCarpentry.com's website and YouTube. On his farm, in addition to small farm animals, he kept bees, tended orchards, pressed cider with an antique press he restored, tapped maple trees, and repaired carts, tractors, and motorcycles. He also read a book every week. He is survived by his wife, Helen; sister **Candis H. Dixon** '76; a brother; three children; and two grandchildren.

Francis R. Porter '73, of Winchester, Mass.; Jan. 17. He graduated from Boston University Medical School and practiced medicine at Winchester Hospital and Lawrence Memori-

al Hospital for more than 30 years. He was an avid birder, enjoyed reading and photography, and was a fan of Boston sports. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann; a daughter and son-in-law; two sons, including **Matthew** '03; two daughters-in-law; and seven grandchildren.

John M. Manchester '74, of Lewisburg, W.Va.; Jan. 17, of pancreatic cancer. After college he hitchhiked 23,000 miles across the U.S. and Canada, and later described his experience at a TEDxLewisburg event titled "Everything I Know About Public Service I Learned Hitchhiking." He joined the solar energy division of the Tennessee Valley Authority, where he taught energy conservation and led solar energy projects. Following his return to West Virginia, he ran a sawmill, built his own house, edited the *Mountain Messenger* newspaper, served 16 years as the communications director of West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, and was elected to the Lewisburg City Council in 2001. He successfully ran for mayor of Lewisburg in 2003 and subsequently served until 2019, obtaining the title of the longest serving mayor in Lewisburg history to date. During his tenure he completed many long needed public improvements and Lewisburg achieved a 2011 designation as "America's Coolest Small Town." He received numerous awards, including the 2018 Distinguished Mountaineer Award from the State of West Virginia. He enjoyed writing, storytelling, hiking, and traveling, and visited all 50 states. He is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, two granddaughters, two sisters, a sister-in-law, and many nieces and nephews.

Frank Bellis Jr. '75, of Wrightstown, N.J.; Nov. 3, of pancreatic cancer. He was the cofounder and principal of The Pharos Group.

OBITUARIES



FAREWELL

The Good Fight

Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards '80 fought injustice of all kinds

In her 2018 memoir, *Make Trouble: Standing Up, Speaking Out, and Finding the Courage to Lead*, Cecile Richards '80 described arriving on College Hill feeling like a Texas misfit, finding passion and purpose on the picket lines alongside Brown's striking janitors and librarians, and then setting out after graduation to help whoever needed to be helped and right whatever wrongs she encountered.

But Richards's activist path, which led her to a high-profile role as of president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America from 2006 to 2018, actually began in the Lone Star state, spurred on by progressive parents, a law professor father, and a mother who would raise a family, enter politics, and become an iconic governor.

From those days until her death at 67 in January, 18 months after she was

diagnosed with glioblastoma, a form of brain cancer, Richards fought the good fight, not only for reproductive rights but for all sorts of causes that she viewed as interconnected.

"The same folks I organized in hotels in New Orleans, or janitors in Los Angeles, or nursing-home workers in East Texas, they're the folks that rely on Planned Parenthood, too," Richards told a packed crowd at a Nashville book event in 2018. "People come to us for reproductive health care, but they need a lot of other things. They need a living wage. They need child care that's affordable. If they're immigrants, they need us to stand with them."

Her first stop after college was New Orleans, where she organized hotel workers alongside future husband Kirk Adams; the couple had three children and one grandchild.

Richards went on to work on labor campaigns, run a progressive nonprofit, and serve as a top aide to then-minority whip Nancy Pelosi. She frequently returned to Texas, helping mother Ann Richards's gubernatorial campaigns, and also fought the conservative takeover Texas school boards.

She brought the same fight to her personal life. At a February memorial, her daughter Hannah Adams told of the time Richards realized her son's Boy Scout troop was camping and learning how to make fire from flint, while Hannah's Girl Scout troop was just selling cookies. Richards pulled Hannah out and started an alternative group for girls: Future Woman Presidents.

"We visited and volunteered at a local domestic violence shelter. We went to the White House and took turns practicing speeches in the

press briefing room. We met with congresswomen and of course, we went camping a lot," Adams said. "This was just one of the many ways Mom set out to remake the world for my brother, my sister and me, and that was how she operated when she saw an injustice."

When Planned Parenthood approached Richards with the president's job, she saw it as a logical career next step. But she also admitted that she at first felt intimidated by the role that would make her an icon in her own right. It was Ann Richards who helped snap her out of it.

"She said 'Cecile, get over yourself. This is the only life you have. You will regret it forever if you don't try,'" Richards recalled.

Richards's tenure at the organization was marked by growth as well as by difficult political challenges.

Planned Parenthood played a major role in passing the Affordable Care Act and ensuring that it would cover birth control at no cost to patients. Richards launched an overhaul of Planned Parenthood's website into a reliable resource not just on birth control but on sexual consent, sexually transmitted diseases, and gender identity. She pushed to bring young people whose peers needed these resources on board.

There were also controversies, from the temporary severing of a longstanding relationship with the Susan G. Komen breast cancer advocacy foundation (among the services Planned Parenthood offers is breast exams) to the release of a heavily edited video purporting to show that Planned Parenthood sold fetal tissue from abortions. Both grew out of attacks by an increasingly empowered anti-abortion movement. And that was before Donald Trump set in motion the eventual overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

Richards had moved on from Planned Parenthood by the time the U.S. Supreme

Court revoked the 50-year-old right to an abortion, and conservative states quickly moved to ban the practice.

But, even after a cancer diagnosis, she looked for ways to fight back. She launched an online tool to help women figure out how to access care and started *Abortion in America*, a storytelling project out of Louisiana, which has one of the nation's most restrictive bans, highlighting the experiences of people who've struggled to get health care under the new reality. The work will go on, her co-author and longtime associate Lauren Collins Peterson said, and will expand to more states.

While she understood just how hard things are right now, Peterson said, Richards "really never lost her faith that ultimately the right of every person to make their own decisions about their body and their future would prevail."

"The thing that was really giving her hope was the people coming forward to share their stories," which Richards believed could change public perceptions and even bridge political divides, Peterson said.

Richards's own story earned her some heady accolades. In 2010, Brown awarded her an honorary degree alongside Nelson Mandela (in absentia)—a full circle moment three decades after she missed her own graduation to protest the University's investment in apartheid South Africa.

And this past November, Joe Biden awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

At her memorial, her husband recounted a question she'd often posed, including at last year's Democratic National Convention: What would you say to future generations who ask, "When there is so much as stake for our country, what did you do?" Her response, Kirk Adams said, was always "everything I can."

But he also added a grace note: "Her life was the answer."

—STEPHANIE GRACE '87

Before The Pharos Group, he worked in multiple roles that ranged from president and CEO to chief compliance officer and associate general counsel at the Claridge Casino Hotel in Atlantic City. He had also been corporate counsel and secretary at Inductotherm Industries (N.J.) and deputy attorney general for the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice. He served as vice chairman of Caring Inc. from 2003 to 2024. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; three sons; and two grandchildren.

Recia Kott Blumenkranz '76, of Portola Valley, Calif.; Nov. 22, of cancer. After graduating from Brown and completing her medical training at Stanford and the University of Miami, she maintained a private dermatology practice in Menlo Park, Calif., for more than 30 years. When not working, she enjoyed gardening, literature, music, and traveling. She is survived by her husband, **Mark** '72, '75 MD, '76 MMS; three children, including **Carla Blumenkranz** '05 and **Scott** '08; five grandchildren; her mother; and a brother.

Juan H. Hinojosa '79, of Laredo, Tex.; Dec. 23, of cancer. After earning his master's and doctorate in geophysics at Johns Hopkins University, he began researching and publishing papers before accepting a teaching position at the University of Texas at El Paso. He was invited to present his research on gravity and topography of Mars at Laredo State University and an offer to teach followed. He taught at Texas A&M International University for more than 36 years. His passion for research, discovery, and education earned him respect in his field, as well as several nominations and awards, including 2020 Distinguished Teacher of the Year. He is survived by two sons; Patricia Hinojosa, mother of his children; five siblings, including **Jose Luis Hinojosa** '80 and **Martha B. Hinojosa** '84; and many nieces and nephews.

Mark L. Travis '79, of Canterbury, N.H.; Nov. 2, following a rapidly progressive infection. Years earlier he was diagnosed with leukemia, undergoing chemotherapy and ultimately a bone marrow transplant. After college, he was a reporter at the *Concord Monitor*, working part-time and covering Pittsfield, New Hampshire. Shortly afterward, he moved to Lebanon (N.H.) to work as a reporter and regional editor for the *Valley News*. In 1983, he and his wife moved to Florida, where he worked at the *St. Petersburg Times*, first as a reporter and then as a bureau chief. In 1986, he returned to the *Concord Monitor* as a reporter, editor, and mentor for young reporters and launched several new publications, including the *Concord Insider*. He was awarded a journalism fellowship with the Nieman Foundation in 2002 and moved to Cambridge, where he spent an academic year at Harvard. In 2008, he became publisher of the *Valley News* and was

diagnosed, but continued to serve as publisher until 2013, when he was named publisher of the *Concord Monitor*. A year later, he moved on from daily newspapers and joined an Upper Valley-based tech startup bringing local news into the digital age. He spent five years with the startup and in 2019 became a ghostwriter at Scribe Media. He retired in June of 2023. He was a member of the Canterbury Town History Book Committee and edited the town newsletter. He was also an active member of the Canterbury United Community Church, a volunteer at the annual Canterbury town fair, and a Canterbury cemetery keeper. He is survived by his wife, Brenda; daughter **Leanna Travis** '22 MD; a son and daughter-in-law; and two grandchildren.

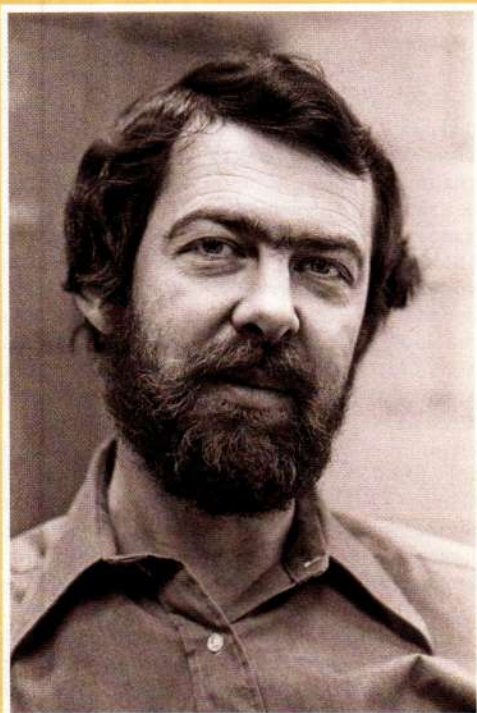
80s Michael L. Cowell '81, of Berkley, Mass.; Nov. 21. During his time at Brown he studied business management while an athlete on the football team and an active fraternity member. A successful business career followed and culminated in his role as CEO of Precision Arrow Gear Group. He is survived by his wife, Heidi; two children; three grandchildren; seven siblings and their spouses; and many nieces and nephews.

90s Sasha J. Carr '91, of Burlington, Vt., formerly of Norwalk, Conn.; Dec. 28. She was a sleep expert while in Norwalk dedicated to helping babies, children, and families get the rest they needed. She was also on the faculty of Family Sleep Institute. She published a children's book, *Putting Bungee to Bed*. She also published *The Caregiver's Essential Handbook: More than 1,200 Tips to Help You Care for and Comfort the Seniors in Your Life*. She enjoyed traveling and acting as a travel agent for kid-oriented vacations. She is survived by a son, her mother and stepfather, her father, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

James J. McArdle '96, of Alexandria Township, N.J.; Jan. 13. He worked as a tutor and also as a bartender at Grace in Lower Manhattan. For nearly five years he volunteered with the Hunterdon Helpline, where he helped senior citizens by shopping for them. He was active in A.A. in Flemington, N.J. He enjoyed cooking, reading and arguing politics. He is survived by his mother, a sister, an aunt, and cousins.

00s Sheree-Monique S. Watson '00, of Rosedale, N.Y.; Nov. 27, of cancer. After Brown, she obtained an MD from Columbia University and did her residency in pediatrics at the combined program of Boston Children's Hospital and Boston Medical Center. She worked as

OBITUARIES



FAREWELL

Sustainability Pioneer

Harold Ward was an environmental studies elder, beloved by students and colleagues.

When Rachel Morello-Frosch joined Brown's Center for Environmental Studies (CES) as an assistant professor in the early 2000s, she was nervous to tell her new boss, director Harold Ward, that she'd recently been inducted into the so-called Junk Science Hall of Fame—an industry blacklist for scientists studying toxic chemicals. “He just laughed in his understated way and said, ‘Don’t worry about that.’” Morello-Frosch remembers. “That’s a badge of honor—you should put that on your application for tenure!”

That moment is typical of Ward's unwavering support for his students and colleagues, as well as his subtly subversive way of challenging authority to advance environmental

change. Over more than 40 years, Ward helped pioneer the field of environmental studies (ES) and mentored scientists and activists who have carried his legacy far beyond College Hill. “I would not be where I am today if Harold hadn’t recruited me and given me support and space to do community-based, participatory science,” says Morello-Frosch, now leading an environmental health and justice program at UC Berkeley.

Nor is she alone. Ward, who died December 4, was far ahead of his time in pursuing an interdisciplinary approach to ES that combined hands-on learning with real-world impact. Through the Urban Environmental Lab (UEL) and initiatives like Brown is Green,

he championed sustainability long before it became a national trend. His research influenced state laws still on the books today. “He wasn’t a big chest-beating extrovert, yet he accomplished so many things just by being incredibly smart and diligent,” says Kurt Teichert, senior lecturer in Environment and Society, who first arrived in 1990 to help Ward overhaul campus energy usage through Brown is Green.

“He was a very, very kind person,” says his wife, Selma Moss-Ward. “He wasn’t exactly sweet to his students, but they developed a great deal of affection for him because he would listen to them and do things on their behalf—constantly finding them jobs or

connecting them with research projects.” Students compared him to Professor Dumbledore or Obi-Wan Kenobi, a wise, slightly gruff mentor with a bushy white beard and a warm heart.

“In a word, Harold was magnanimous,” says Nan Jenks-Jay, professor emerita at Middlebury, who looked to Ward as a mentor working alongside him through the Northeast Environmental Studies (NEES) consortium in the 1990s. “Harold became an ambassador supporting colleagues across the country,” she says. “More than once, he buoyed us up when we were met with daunting institutional predicaments.” Ward was “the patriarch of interdisciplinary studies related to protecting the environment,” adds Eric Pallant, who launched the ES program at Allegheny College and learned from Ward as a visiting professor at Brown.

Ward’s approach to conservation was rooted in his childhood on a subsistence farm in southern Illinois with no electricity and little money. “He caught on to the idea of recycling early because you didn’t throw stuff out—you made it last or found a new use for it,” says Moss-Ward. After studying chemistry at Southern Illinois University, he got a PhD at MIT and completed a postdoc at Oxford before coming in Brown as a chemistry professor in 1963, the same year Congress passed its first air quality law.

Earning tenure quickly, Ward’s interests shifted toward practical application of his knowledge. After fielding numerous calls from Providence residents concerned about toxins, he took advantage of an Environmental Protection Agency program to earn a law degree at Harvard, returning to Brown in 1978 to found the CES. Soon after, Ward transformed the Lucian Sharpe-designed Carriage House at 135 Angell Street into the UEL, securing funding from the Mellon Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy. It

became one of the first “green” buildings at a major university. Students lived there and in two neighboring dorms, tending community gardens and experimenting with ways to conserve energy and water while reducing waste.

In the 1980s, Ward and his students launched Brown’s first recycling program, placing barrels outside the UEL that directly inspired Rhode Island’s state recycling laws. Students from CES monitored the state’s progress, building real-world experience alongside environmental advocacy.

As president of Ecology Action of Rhode Island, and later chair of the state branch of the Conservation Law Foundation, Ward frequently testified as an expert at the state house, as well as working with state officials to craft laws and policy on recycling, lead toxicity, air quality, and watershed management. “He was a consistent force for decades,” says former department of environmental management official Bob Vanderslice. “If he was your friend, he had your back and wasn’t going away. If you were on the other side, he wasn’t going away either.”

Ward frequently involved students, helping set them up with research projects and internships that would have direct impact on the local and state environment. “Harold had high standards—for himself and others,” says Chip Giller, who worked as his teaching assistant in the early ’90s, helped with state policy projects, and later founded the environmental publication *Grist*. “He encouraged you by trusting you fully—you wanted to push yourself to meet those broad goals.”

Despite his institutional savvy, Ward maintained a counter-cultural spirit, sponsoring informal “PCBs” (Pizza, Conversation, and Beverages) and “Soup Seminars” gatherings at the UEL. At NEES meetings, Ward fostered a similarly egalitarian spirit, with

no dues or formal presentations, just an informal space for conversation and support.

“Without ever being pushy, he had this quiet presence—you felt it when he was in the room,” recalls Pallant. “When he finally spoke, it was intellectually sound and utterly persuasive.”

One of Ward’s biggest frustrations was his inability to turn ES into a full department. He came close several times, but changes in administration sidetracked his plans. In the early 2000s, he fiercely opposed plans to move the UEL to make way for new labs, enlisting students and the Providence Preservation Society for the fight. “In the end, the building was saved, but it was excruciating for him,” Moss-Ward says.

After becoming emeritus, Ward turned his South County home along the Wood River into a sustainability showcase, becoming a certified master gardener and working to graft more than 50 varieties of heirloom tomatoes to disease-resistant rootstocks, a feat that earned mention in the *New York Times*. Ward’s legacy lives on through the Institute at Brown for Environment and Society (IBES). “Much of IBES’s success owes itself to Harold and the community of scholars he nurtured,” says IBES director Kim Cobb. At the Institute’s 10th anniversary celebration, attended by nearly 200 alumni, faculty, and community partners, Cobb launched the annual Harold Ward Prize for Community Engagement, to be presented to a senior. Many attendees shared memories of Ward, collected into a commemorative book, testifying to the profound influence he had on their lives and careers. “He was so happy people remembered him and valued what he had done,” says Moss-Ward. “He was over the moon.”

He is survived by Moss-Ward, two children, and numerous environmentalists whom he helped to create.

—MICHAEL BLANDING

a pediatrician. At the time of her death, she was months shy of completing her fellowship in pediatric gastroenterology at Hasbro Children’s Hospital. Recently, she worked for LiveOnNY, NYC’s organ procurement organization. Being an organ recipient herself, organ donation was a cause dear to her heart. She was a track athlete in high school and college and ran multiple half marathons. She enjoyed participating in many shows, including various Shakespeare in the Park plays. She also enjoyed rock climbing, mountain biking, and white-water rafting. In addition to athletics, she enjoyed traveling, visiting museums, listening to music, and playing word games. She is survived by her husband, Juan Puyo; her mother; a brother, sister, and sister-in-law; a niece and nephew; and many aunts and uncles.

GS Edward N. Clarke ’46, ’51 PhD (see ’46).

Laurence T. Brennan ’55 ScM, of Woodcliff Lake, N.J.; Dec. 28. He began his career as an actuary and later was a managing partner at Kwasha Lipton in Ft. Lee, N.J. Among his many career accomplishments, he helped to develop the cash balance defined benefit pension plan. His love for his autistic son led him to advocate for the neurodivergent and handicapped serving on nonprofit boards ranging from the national to the local: Autism Speaks, Eden Autism and the Opportunity Center. He was an artist, a musician, and a gardener/landscaper. He enjoyed yoga, reading, and swimming. He is survived by seven children, 10 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Joseph M. Proud ’55 ScM, ’58 PhD, of Sudbury, Mass.; Dec. 6, following a brief illness. After earning his degree, he conducted experiments on nuclear explosions in Nevada before settling with his family in Waltham, where he had a 20-year career at GTE Sylvania. He was an internationally recognized physicist specializing in lighting. He retired in 1983 and enjoyed gardening, woodworking, painting, and playing the clarinet and saxophone. He is survived by a daughter, a daughter-in-law, four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

Richard F. Woodcock ’55 PhD, of Woodstock, Conn.; Dec. 12. He joined the research division of American Optical Co. in Southbridge, Mass., as an optical physicist and became a leader in their research and development department and a liaison for government sponsored research projects. He was involved in groundbreaking work related to fiber optics, lasers, and photochromic materials, securing 33 patents and writing more than 30 scientific papers. He was a member of the American Physical Society, Optical Society of America, the American Society of Testing and

OBITUARIES

Protecting the Environment

Charles F. Lettow '01 AM

From the very beginning of his career as a lawyer, **Charles F. Lettow** '01 AM had a positive impact on the environment—from being part of the team that created the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the 1970s to winning a unanimous 2012 Supreme Court decision against the government, which had taken over a wildlife refuge (*Arkansas Game & Fish Commission v. U.S.*). Lettow, of McLean, Va., died December 24 at the age of 83. He attended Iowa State University as an Army ROTC cadet and while there met his future wife, Bonnie Sue Todoroff, who passed away in 2016.

Following his military service, he attended Stanford Law School, where he was editor of the *Stanford Law Review* and a member of the Order of the Coif. He graduated in 1968 and clerked for Judge Benjamin C. Duniway of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. From 1969 to 1970, he clerked for U.S. Chief Justice Warren E. Burger.

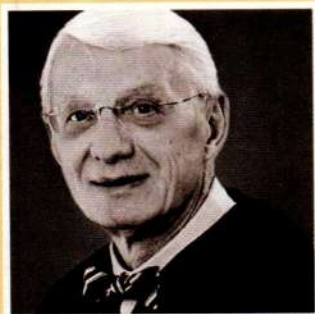
Beginning in 1970, he worked as counsel to the newly-created Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) in the Executive Office of the President. Along with others there, he was instrumental in the design of the EPA, piecing

it together from offices scattered among other agencies. While at CEQ, he served as the point person for treaty negotiations including the Law of the Sea Treaty.

In 1973, he joined the Washington office of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton, where he practiced environmental and general commercial litigation, becoming a partner in 1976. He argued three cases before the

U.S. Supreme Court, including the Arkansas wildlife refuge win. He argued more than 40 cases in the U.S. courts of appeals and handled many cases in federal trial courts. He was a member of the board of trustees of the Potomac School in McLean from 1983 to 1990. As chair from 1985 to 1988, he led the creation of the new high school. On a

sabbatical from Cleary Gottlieb he earned a master's in history from Brown. In 2003, President George W. Bush appointed Lettow to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, where he served with distinction through 2018, then as an active senior judge until 2024. In 2016, Iowa State honored him with its distinguished alumni award. Lettow is survived by four children and their spouses, seven grandchildren, and two sisters and their families.



uate trip to the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (Miss.) to collect marine specimens to bring back to the lab at BGSU. In 1984, she was a guest researcher at the Hubbs-Sea-World Research Institute. During her tenure at BGSU she was honored with a Master Teacher Award and a Distinguished Educator Award. In the late 1980s, she was awarded a National Science Foundation grant to develop an ocean-focused curriculum for elementary, middle, and high school teachers. In collaboration with her honors students, she produced a children's ocean activity book titled *Sea Sense and Fun Sense*. Nearly a decade after her retirement, BGSU awarded her a 2005 honorary doctorate in marine science education for her "dedication to students and teaching, leadership in marine biology education, service to BGSU, and a lifetime of achievements in her field." She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, two grandchildren, a sister and brother-in-law, and a brother and sister-in-law.

Edwin L. Cooper '63 PhD, of Los Angeles; Jan. 9. He joined UCLA's department of anatomy in 1964 and became a full professor in 1973. He also served as vice chairman from 1989 to 1993. During his tenure, he played an important role chairing the first histology course for medical students and teaching immunology to the inaugural dental class. He enjoyed traveling. He is survived by his wife, Helene; a daughter; a son and daughter-in-law, and two grandsons.

Kay Engelmann Raymond '64 AM, of Huntsville, Tex.; Nov. 26, after a short illness. She graduated from Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study at Harvard, then received her master's degree from Brown and a doctorate from Indiana University. She had faculty appointments at Indiana University, Emporia State University, the University of Alabama, and Sam Houston State University, from which she retired in 2014. In addition to teaching, she enjoyed mentoring and helping first-generation Hispanic students. She was the recipient of many leadership and advising awards, including a 2009 Educator of the Year Award from the League of United Latin American Citizens. She is survived by a daughter, a son-in-law, and a granddaughter.

William W. Smith Jr. '65 AM, of Milwaukee; Dec. 16. He had an engineering career that moved him several times before he settled in Wisconsin. In retirement, he served on the board of directors of the Wisconsin Masters Games, where he helped to coordinate sporting events. He is survived by three children, 11 grandchildren, two great-grandsons, three sisters, and a brother.

Lois S. Stein '65 AM, of Phoenix, Ariz.; Dec. 5, of Alzheimer's disease. She taught Spanish language and literature for 10 years

Materials, and Sigma Xi, as well as serving as a member of numerous Woodstock committees and organizations. He enjoyed camping, outdoor sports, woodworking, and jewelry making. He is survived by three daughters and sons-in-law, and seven grandchildren.

Phyllis Toal Dircks '60 AM, of Huntington, N.Y.; Jan. 16. She began her teaching career as a professor of English literature at St. John's, where she met her future husband, then taught at C.W. Post College of Long Island University for more than 50 years. During the course of her career, she was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Danforth Foundation Teacher Fellowship, the National Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, and the Long Island University David Newton Award for Excellence in Teaching. A specialist in contemporary American drama, she

was a national expert on the works of playwrights Eugene O'Neil and Edward Albee. She authored several books and many scholarly articles. She was a member of the board of directors of Theatre Library Association and served the American Society for Theatre Research for many years as newsletter editor and archivist. She is survived by five children and 19 grandchildren.

Cynthia Collin Stong '62 AM, of Ann Arbor, Mich.; Nov. 14. After earning a degree in zoology from Wellesley College and attending a marine biology summer program at Woods Hole, she graduated from Brown with a master's in biology and moved to Ohio, where she became an instructor in the biological sciences department of Bowling Green State University. She developed marine biology courses and led an annual undergrad-

at Cornell College and initiated a variety of campus activities encompassing the language that included a Spanish Club, an annual Spanish theatrical production, and student trips to Mexico. She then taught at URI from 1966 to 1968 and at Assumption College during the summers of 1964 and 1965. She joined the faculty at the University of Chicago in 1987 and served as dean of students in the graduate division of the social sciences. She retired in 2006. She is survived by her husband, Harvey; two sons and daughters-in-law; a granddaughter; a sister; a brother and sister-in-law; and 10 nieces and nephews.

Edward J. Gallagher '67 AM, '72 PhD, of Providence; Dec. 31. He was emeritus professor of French studies at Wheaton College. He previously taught at Rosemont College (Pa.) and Washington University of St. Louis. He published four books ranging from medieval romance to novels of the twentieth century.

James W. Mills '68 PhD of Durango, Colo.; Jan. 28, from pulmonary disease. He taught for four years at Drew University before moving to Durango in 1973 to be a professor of chemistry at Fort Lewis College for 32 years. While there, he was department chair, State Board of Agriculture representative, faculty liaison for construction of a new chemistry hall, and the recipient of the Alice Admire Teaching Award. He built a solar home and cofounded the Durango Friends Meeting community center. He is survived by his wife, Nadean; a daughter; a son and daughter-in-law; a granddaughter; a sister; a brother; and a sister-in-law.

Kathleen Lebois Schwartz '68 MAT, of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Dec. 9. She was a math teacher in Sharon, Mass., and at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Connecticut. She is survived by her daughter **Karyn Schwartz** '98; a son-in-law; a son and daughter-in-law; and three grandchildren.

Patricia A. Barald '70 AM (see '70).

Alan R. Goldman '71 PhD (see '60).

Robert J. Schultz '71 PhD, of Ocean Pines, Md.; Dec. 4. After completing post-doctoral work at the University of Michigan, he made significant contributions as a synthetic medicinal chemist for Starks Associates, a contractor for the National Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y. He was transferred to Gaithersburg, Md., where he continued to work in drug synthesis. He retired from the National Cancer Institute in April 2006 as the project officer for the drug synthesis and chemistry branch of the developmental therapeutics program. He enjoyed cruising with his wife, fishing, and spending time with family. He is survived by his wife, Karen; a daughter; a son; two stepchildren; eight grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Steven M. Strang '71 AM, '81 PhD, of Med-

ford, Mass.; Dec. 29. He began his career as a journalist and columnist at *Bangor Daily News* in Maine before becoming a teacher whose career spanned more than 51 years. He taught writing at MIT for 40 years and in 1981 founded and directed MIT's Writing and Communications Center. He was the author of *Writing Exploratory Essays*. His fiction, poems, literary criticism, and pedagogical articles were published in many journals. He is survived by his wife, Ayni; a daughter; a son and daughter-in-law; and four grandchildren.

Christopher M. Collins '12 MPP, of Stamford, Conn.; Jan. 29, unexpectedly, in the American Airlines Washington, D.C., plane crash. After earning his bachelor of science in education degree from UMass Dartmouth, he taught middle school in North Attleboro, Mass. With a passion to influence education policy at a broader scale, he earned his master's in public policy at Brown, then worked at New York City's Office of Management and Budget. He then worked as an analyst at Moody's Investors Service, focusing on how public money could be used to support higher education. He eventually became a senior analyst and vice president. He enjoyed the outdoors and had a lifelong affection for animals. He especially enjoyed walking the dogs at Lucky Dog Refuge in Stamford, Conn. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer Thomas; his parents; a brother; a niece and nephew; his mother and father-in-law; and aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Stu Mathew R. Graci, of Milford, Mass.; Feb. 7. He was a PhD chemistry student. He graduated from Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical High School in 2012 and joined the U.S. Marine Corps. He was honorably discharged in 2021. Subsequently, he earned a bachelor's

degree in chemistry from Clark University in 2024 and began at Brown this past fall to pursue his doctorate in chemistry. He enjoyed reading, gardening, and cooking. He is survived by many relatives including his wife, Kate, two children, and his parents.

Fac Linda B. Miller, of South Wellfleet, Mass.; Jan. 19. After graduating from Radcliffe College and Columbia University, she taught political science at Wellesley College for more than 30 years. She later joined the faculty of Brown and taught at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs for more than 15 years. More recently, she taught an adult class at the Wellfleet Public Library. She is survived by her sister **Devra M. Breslow** '54 and several cousins and friends.

Alfred Toselli, of Providence, formerly of Jamestown, R.I.; Sept. 18. He completed medical school at the University of Bologna and subsequent residencies at St. Joseph Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital before founding Pediatric Associates, Inc. in Rhode Island. He served as chief of pediatrics at St. Joseph Hospital for 10 years and was on staff at Rhode Island Hospital, Women & Infants Hospital, Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, and Pawtucket Memorial Hospital. He received numerous awards during his 45-year career that included being appointed clinical assistant professor of pediatrics at Warren Alpert Medical School and president of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics from 1986 to 1988. He was active in Italian-American medical affairs and was awarded the Order of the Star of Italy with the rank of cavaliere by the president of Italy in 1974. He is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Dan E. Caldwell, FAC, of Pacific Palisades, Calif.; Jan. 8, after a four-year battle with cancer. He earned his bachelor's degree at Stanford University and upon graduation, he entered active duty in the U.S. Navy, where he was a staff assistant in the Office of Emergency Preparedness, Executive Office of the President, in Washington, D.C. He was later assigned to teach national security affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. He received a master's in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and returned to Stanford, where he earned a master's and PhD in political science before beginning his career at Pepperdine in 1978. While at Pepperdine, he twice served as president of the Seaver College faculty and played significant roles in growing the political science program and launching the international studies program. He was integral in establishing the Scholarship Initiatives Office on campus, and was an advocate for Pepperdine's student-veterans. He founded the Pepperdine Committee on Student-Veterans, which led to the creation of the Office of Student-Veteran Affairs in 2020. He had visiting appointments at UCLA, the University of Southern California, and Brown, where he helped to establish the Center for Foreign Policy Development (now the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs). He was also a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign Relations and, for many years, the chair of its academic outreach initiative. He received many teaching awards. He was active in Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church and enjoyed hiking, skiing, boating, and playing tennis. He is survived by his wife, Lora; two daughters; a son and daughter-in-law; a son-in-law; and two grandchildren.



Comparative lit and visual arts double-concentrator Elliot Stravato '27 sees stars everywhere he goes.

CURRENT OBSESSION

Seeing Stars

FIVE MINUTES WITH Elliot Stravato '27

Last spring I noticed this tile outside my freshman year dorm, Andrews, that had one of those star pimple patches. Every day I would look at it and be like, “Oh, it’s my favorite tile, because it had a little star on it.” So I started to actively seek out stars. I saw another one, thinking, “Oh, wait, this is pretty fun. Maybe I could do something with this.”

Honestly, I just like stars. In a more pragmatic way, I think they’re a really common shape. But also it’s really simple; it’s a perfect middle ground between something like a circle, which is like anything, and then, like, a horse, which is too complicated. But a star is, like, right in the middle.

So when I started collecting photos of them, I set down some ground rules for myself. One of them is that the star had to be naturally occurring—it couldn’t be a star that I drew or someone else drew in front of me, because that’s too easy. I’m also not interested in stars that are too mass-produced, stars that

are used everywhere; there’s no art to them.

What I’m really interested in is this element of surprise or serendipity. I think what comes with that is sometimes a star just feels like a star, instead of being a perfect one. And so I think one of my favorite ones is when I was eating some ramen noodles, and I dropped them, and a noodle landed in the shape of a star. I was like, “Oh my God.”

My friend said something really profound to me when I was telling him about my collection—he said that the star is really interesting because it’s sort of like the shape of a body. I think there’s definitely, like, sort of an evolutionary explanation for why I do this, or why I can do this. Because survival is all about pattern recognition and seeing predators, and maybe there’s something about the sort of vaguely figural shape of the star. It’s like humans searching for humans.

Wait—I’m finding friends, wherever I go!
—INTERVIEWED BY LILY ELLMAN '27

Stars or wishes?

I really like when they’re made by shadows. Because in my painting practice, I’m really interested in shadows and light. And so it feels really exciting to me when, like, a tree shadow makes the shape of a star. I’m hypersensitized to the feeling of the shape of a star, and so I’ve been seeing them everywhere. And then afterwards, I’ll be like, that is actually nothing like a star. I’ll see a star in like, a blank wall. Maybe I’m going crazy.